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In Business Update

Drama at the Principality Stadium as the Seaweeds snatch famous victory at the death

It was a day to remember for the players and supporters of Porthcawl RFC as they won the WRU Bowl with the last kick of the game! See the match report on the back page.

DORIS CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Doris Evans with daughter Eira Rust in the train carriage 'pod' at Morgana Lodge. Photo by Rama Mannari.

A PORTHCAWL woman, Doris Evans, celebrated her 100th birthday in March, and had a family party at her care home, including surprise guests who flew in from the United States.

Speaking at the Morgana Lodge care home in South Cornelly, Doris gave her tips for a long life: "I always made sure I had at least eight to 10 hours sleep every night and shared problems and worries with friends and family instead of dealing with them on my own."

Doris was born on March 8, 1918, in Cymmer, Port Talbot. The youngest of six children, Doris, whose maiden name was Macdonald, grew up in Cymmer with her three sisters and two brothers. She later worked at her sister Mary's cafe in Briton Ferry and also kept the Britannia Inn there.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Prison officer at Parc is given suspended sentence for misconduct

A PRISON officer started a personal relationship with a prisoner and sent him text messages on a hidden phone.

Shauna Cleary (25) began a 'link-up' with inmate Kurt Jarman while working at the privately-run men's prison.

Jarman (22) was serving a 10-year prison sentence after he brutally attacked a 77-year-old man in his home in a terrifying three-hour ordeal.

A court heard Cleary gave her number to the prisoner and sent him messages on a phone he had hidden in his cell.

Prosecutor Joanna James said analysis revealed Jarman called Cleary in August last year and the relationship "gained momentum".

Cleary sent the prisoner two messages on October 1 but the content was not known.

She was arrested and her phone and laptop were seized.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Samantha B
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Cosmology corner: PLANET WATCH

WITH my recent preoccupation with Einstein and Stephen Hawking, I have rather neglected what's been going on in the skies above us, so let's have an update.

Jupiter is very prominent all night, although rather low down. On May 10, it is at its closest to Earth at a distance of 658 million kilometres, or 37 light minutes. Look through ordinary binoculars to see the four main Galilean moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.

It will take a somewhat larger telescope, however, to see Jupiter's great red spot – a huge storm in Jupiter's atmosphere which is large enough to swallow the Earth whole – with room to spare!

Following improvements made to his telescope, these moons were first seen by Galileo Galilei in January 1610. After noting that their relative positions changed hour to hour, he concluded that the four were not fixed stars, but rather were satellite moons orbiting Jupiter.

They were the first objects found to orbit another planet and are among the largest objects in the Solar System. Ganymede, in fact, is the largest moon in the Solar System, and is even bigger than the planet Mercury. The other three are all larger than Pluto.

Galileo's discovery showed the importance of the telescope as a tool for astronomers by proving that there were objects in space that cannot be seen by the naked eye.

More importantly, the incontrovertible discovery of celestial bodies orbiting something other than Earth dealt a serious blow to Ptolemy's assertion that Earth was at the centre of the universe, and all other celestial bodies revolved around it.

In announcing his celestial observations, Galileo did not explicitly mention Copernican heliocentrism, an alternate but often ridiculed theory, that placed the Sun at the centre of the universe.

More than 60 Jovian moons have now been catalogued, but the four Galilean moons are considerably the largest.

Images taken by the Voyager spacecraft showed Io's surface to have a surface almost entirely covered with large, active volcanoes. Infrared images taken by the Juno spacecraft, which has been in orbit round Jupiter since 2016, show hundreds of eruptions in progress and hot, glowing lava on Io's surface.

Jupiter's gravity creates bulges on Io just like the Moon creates the ocean tides on Earth. The constant change in size and orientation of Io causes friction that creates enough internal heat for these volcanic eruptions to occur.

Europa has a rocky interior surrounded by an icy layer 100 kilometres thick, the top few kilometres of which seem to be frozen solid. The stretching and squeezing of tidal friction should provide enough heat to melt some of this into liquid water beneath a thin ice shell.

If it does, then Europa may have an ocean with more than twice as much liquid water as all of Earth's oceans combined. Its surface is striated by cracks and streaks, whereas craters are relatively rare – evidence of constant renewal as warm water seeps upwards and freezes onto the surface.

Water plumes up to 60 miles high have also been observed. Scientists are keen to get a probe onto Io's surface to see if there is life in the sub-surface ocean, either by drilling through the ice shell or by sampling the water plumes.

The surface of Ganymede shares many similarities with Europa, being also made of water ice. Unlike Europa's surface, however, it shows signs of varying age but it is possible that a liquid ocean might exist beneath Ganymede's surface similar to the one believed to exist on Europa.

Callisto is the stereotypical outer solar system satellite. It is one of the largest and most heavily cratered satellites in the solar system. The surface is very icy and dates back four billion years. Beneath the icy crust is possibly another salty ocean supported by a deeper rocky interior.

Norman Lloyd

'Brexit issue will be priority'

GEM Column by CHRIS ELMORE, MP

I HOPE all GEM readers had a pleasant Easter break and got to spend some time with friends and family.

I've been very busy during the Parliamentary recess meeting community groups, businesses, and working hard for constituents who have raised issues or campaigns with me.

I particularly enjoyed attending the Mothers' Union Tea Party in Pencoed, opening the extension to Anwen Care Home in Pantyrawel, meeting local organisations at Bridgend's Veterans' Awareness Day and cheering on the participants of the Lynfi BMX competition day.

As we have now headed back to Westminster, my Welsh Labour colleagues and I will be continuing to hold this increasingly fragile Tory Government to account on a variety of issues.

Of course, the all-encompassing issue of Brexit will be our priority to ensure that we don't allow the Tories to run riot over our economy, workers' rights and citizenship rights.

I've been keeping the pressure on the UK Government on this issue because I feel that the Tories' current mismanagement of the Brexit negotiations is causing a wave of uncertainty to emanate across the UK.

We've recently seen Ford (which is, of course, a key local employer) and Airbus calling for clarity from the government to help with future investment decisions. When big companies like these begin calling the government out so publicly on this issues, it is clear that ministers are leaving businesses in a very difficult situation.

Likewise, when considering new international trade deals, which is a key cornerstone of the Tories' post-Brexit policy, I've been very clear that any new agreements must not damage the interests of Welsh businesses.

For example, recently I tackled the government on the issue of the Welsh Lamb industry: Welsh farmers must not be sold out simply to make a deal with New Zealand.

Nobody voted leave to be worse off, and it's high time the government got its act together and gave Welsh businesses the clarity and the certainty they so desperately need.

This isn't scaremongering: it is the reality of the government's mishandling of Brexit to date.

I very much enjoy discussing people's views on Brexit and I directly feed these conversations into my campaigning on this issue in Parliament. I will continue to work hard for a Brexit that works for the people of Wales and the Welsh economy.

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Information supplied www.welshhearts.org.

Residents help to raise money for sight loss charity

BRIDGEND residents have helped staff at a local opticians raise £220 for people with sight loss.

The money, donated to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), was raised through raffle ticket sales at the Specsavers store on Adare Street.

The RNIB is the UK's leading sight loss charity, which provides expert eye health information, as well as informed and impartial advice to those affected by sight loss. The charity offers practical and emotional support, and gives people with sight loss the confidence to continue living their lives to the full.

Carly Hickson, manager of Specsavers Bridgend, said: "We're pleased to be able to make this donation to such an important charity and help it continue to offer its essential support and services."

Business as usual at Pen-y-Fai WI

THE April monthly meeting of Pen-y-Fai WI was the AGM, where a welcome was given to the WI advisor Carolyn Davies.

The first report was given by the new treasurer, Jan Ryder. Next came Beverly Harry, also new to the post. She gave a report on the varied activities and trips that members had engaged in, as well as the numerous speakers that had visited the group.

The chairman then gave her report, in which she thanked all the members of the committee for their contributions and help throughout the year.

Carolyn asked members to vote on the post of chairman for the coming year and Angela Smith was re-elected.

A vote was then taken on the resolution that was to go forward to the NFWI AGM in Cardiff on 'mental health matters as much as physical health', which was passed unanimously.

A new memberm Susan Haberfield, had been persuaded to join the committee and was welcomed by Carolyn.

The next meeting will be on May 21, when Gareth Elms will give a talk on 'Margam Park'.

A NEW PRESIDENT FOR SOROPTIMISTS

BRIDGEND Soroptimists held their AGM on April 25 at the Heronston Hotel.

After a very busy 70th anniversary year, during which the chair was shared by three members, outgoing president Eurwen was delighted to install Helen Murdoch of Porthcawl as club president for 2018/19.

President Helen said she is looking forward to overseeing the numerous activities planned and emphasised the importance of 'working together' as her theme for the coming year.

With the formalities of the evening completed, members enjoyed supper.

The next meeting will take place on May 9 at 7.15pm at the Heronston Hotel.

For more information on Soroptimist International, see http://sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district/ and http://www.com/BridgendSoroptimists. New members are welcome.

Soroptimist president Helen Murdoch.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	09.19	9.5	21.38	9.3
04 Fri	09.53	9.2	22.11	8.9
05 Sat	10.26	8.7	22.44	8.4
06 Sun	10.59	8.2	23.25	8.0
07 Mon	11.53	7.8		
08 Tues	00.21	7.5	12.49	7.4
09 Wed	01.32	7.3	14.12	7.3
10 Thur	02.56	7.5	15.33	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Council will consider options over 'shabby' homeless hostel

A NEW £2 million purpose-built hostel for the homeless in Bridgend county is one of several options being considered to look after the rising numbers of people requiring emergency accommodation.

The hostel, which is an old converted council office in Brynmenyn, is owned by Bridgend County Borough Council and managed by the homeless charity the Wallich.

Councillors say the service offered by the charity is "fantastic" but the building itself is "past its best" and plans need to be made for its replacement.

A report by officers on the state of the hostel which is currently shut for emergency repairs due to subsidence concerns says it is "shabby and psychologically uninviting for people who are in a vulnerable and stressful state".

It states the shared bathroom and kitchen facilities limit privacy, it has little outdoor space and it is not conducive to a supportive and positive environment for children and families.

Four options are being considered by the council. They include keeping the hostel at the same location, building a new one, converting another council building into a hostel or scrapping the hostel in place of a new model of dispersed accommodation.

Speaking at a council meeting on the issue, cabinet member for future generations and wellbeing, Cllr Dhanisha Patel said: "The premises is out of date.

"If I was homeless and turned up there, I would feel at rock bottom when I entered that building. I would like people to have a better and more welcoming place to end up."

Cllr Matthew Voisey (Conservative) said that while the facility was functional it could not be described as leading edge or desirable.

He said: "We should be aiming for a completely new purpose-built facility that takes into account all the most modern requirements and the needs of the users.

"I appreciate there is a financial point but in my mind this is something that would be worthy of a capital investment."

The officers' report on the issue says that over the last few years the reduction in use of bed and breakfast accommodation which is no longer deemed suitable for families has led to a 70-per-cent increase in the use of hostel and emergency accommodation.

It adds: "Research suggests that the estimated average cost of a homeless person per year is £26,000 when you take into account the costs of convictions, accessing A&E, support needs, and policing.

"Therefore any preventative actions and support that can be put in place will help mitigate those circumstances and potentially reduce the overall cost to public resources."

The hostel provides 16 accommodation units and is used for families as well as for single homeless people.

Other hostels in Bridgend include Cornerstone House which provides six accommodation units and emergency bed space, and Ty Ogwr which has 16 units.

Councillors on the subject overview and scrutiny committee, which met on April 19, said no option should be left off the table as officers look to provide a detailed analysis of financial costs, availability and suitability.

LDR

'Pupils are taught irrelevant things in PSE' says councillor

CHILDREN in schools should be learning about the "responsibilities of parenthood" to better prepare them for family life, a councillor has said.

Bridgend borough councillor Nicole Burnett (Labour) believes children should be taught how to manage their finances and be a good citizen as well as what is involved with parenting in order to help them lead a 'normal family life'.

Speaking at a Bridgend council meeting on early help and children's social care, she questioned whether more could be done in schools to help prevent the increasing demand for services such as the new council-run 'Baby in Mind' service.

The new service involves intensive support for pregnant women and their partners to develop the necessary skills to keep their children safe.

The early intervention aims to "...prevent the baby from becoming separated from its parents by being taken into care".

Cllr Burnett said: "I don't feel there's enough parenting and citizenship done in Personal and Social Education (PSE) at the moment.

"Most students are taught things that are irrelevant – they're not even taught how to look after an animal, let alone a child or what the responsibilities of that are."

The councillor for Morfa added: "I'm really concerned about this aspect of education and that schools have got so much freedom in terms of what life skills children are prepared for. I feel there's an extreme lack of skills being taught.

"This is nothing to do with sex education, it's to do with what it's really like to have a baby in the house and what it needs to be looked after.

"It also includes things like what's a healthy relationship, what's acceptable and what's not, what's abuse. I don't feel it's covered enough.

"Those who are not taught it at home, where are they taught it?

"Some children have nothing to compare themselves against. It needs to be shown to them in an educational context to make sure they grow up with an education which will help them lead a normal family life."

Bridgend County Borough Council's interim director of education, Lindsey Harvey, said while all schools delivered PSE differently and there was no compulsory model there was now a "far better interaction" between schools and health services.

The cabinet member for education, Cllr Charles Smith, said the council would talk to schools about what more could be covered within PSE.

Between 2016-2017, the overall numbers of children in care across Wales increased by 5.5 per cent.

In Bridgend, the numbers increased by 2.2 per cent for the year and the local authority was the fourth highest in Wales for the number of looked after children per 10,000 population.

The council meeting took place on Monday April 16.

LDR

Stroke Club thanks pub quizzers

(Left to right): Penny, Shirley, Mal, Mary, Joy, Mike Ruck (landlord of the Jolly Sailor), Keith Duggan (chairman of Porthcawl Stroke Club) and Mandy.

THE Porthcawl Stroke Club has thanked a local pub after reeiving a donation of more than £900.

Mike Ruck, the Landlord of the Jolly Sailor in Newton organizes weekly quiz events for local charities.

As a result, Porthcawl Stroke Club received a cheque for an amazing sum of £908. 25.

A club spokeswoman said: "This resulted from the generosity of the quiz participants, who not only raise money for their local community, but enjoy general knowledge questions in an atmosphere which is electric, such enjoyable evenings!!

"With enthusiastic Joy as the quiz master,great food, wine and good company, it really is not to be missed.

"The Porthcawl Stroke Club would like to thank Ian and Linda Stroud for introducing us, a huge, huge thank you to the local participants, Landlord Mike and staff, especially Joy – Joy by name, Joy by nature.

"On behalf of the Porthcawl Stroke Club, our sincere appreciation to all our friends at the Jolly Sailor and the local community."

BM

New venue at TS *Dragon*

STAFF and cadets have moved into their new unit in the TS *Dragon* building next to the RNLI station on Cosy Corner.

It will be their home for the next two years, after which they will move into a permanent unit in the new Maritime Centre in late 2019.

TS stands for 'Training Ship' and *Dragon* is the Type 45 Royal Navy Destroyer HMS *Dragon,* after which the unit is named.

For many current and past cadets and staff, there are mixed emotions as they leave TS *St David* on the Eastern Breakwater and embark on the first stage of their journey to a permanent home.

When they take up their permanent berth in 2019, the unit will have in fact turned full circle in terms of its location.

The original unit TS *Seaflower* started around 72 years ago and was situated on Cosy Corner in a hut beside the old skating rink and Cosy Cinema, from which Cosy Corner derived its name.

In the early 1960s, the cadet unit transferred to the temporary wartime building on Eastern Breakwater and became TS *St David*. When they complete their journey into the new Maritime Centre then they will be within yards of the site of the original TS *Seaflower.*

Commanding Officer PO Sarah Evans said: "What is really exciting are the opportunities to expand our numbers and to provide a great cadet experience for more young people. This is a modern facility with toilets, heating, galley and training facilities."

The chair of the unit management committee, Cllr Mike Clarke said: "This move is an important step to provide more options for young people within Porthcawl and the wider county borough.

"We have secured arrangements to provide Stillwater sailing and other watersports activities locally, are developing close links with The Harbour Boating Club and the Harbourside Marine Services company, where we plan to expand our marine engineering training programmes".

Membership is open to any young person between the ages of 10 years and 18 years living in Bridgend county borough.

If you would like to find out more about civilian or uniformed staff volunteering vacancies or becoming a cadet, contact the unit by e m a i l : porthcawlscc@gmail.co m or call 07925519773.

Council to target bad parking near schools

AS reported in last year, a mobile camera car is about to start patrols in Bridgend county targeting dangerous parking outside schools.

The car, bought by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), aims to 'clamp down' on unsafe or illegal parking near schools and in other areas.

The council's cabinet member for education Charles Smith said the car is "clearly marked and easily recognisable".

Speaking at a council meeting on Wednesday April 24, he said: "In addition to CCTV cameras, the car also features automatic number plate recognition technology.

"It will focus on keep clear zones outside schools, bus stops, 24-hr clearways, pedestrian crossings with zigzags and more."

He added: "I want to emphasise this new service has nothing to do with generating income, it is focused entirely on increasing road safety outside local schools and helping to keep children safe.

Penalty Charge Notices will be sent to the offending drivers through the post.

"I hope the new camera car will prove to be a major deterrent and will be a big boost to road safety."

LDR

Twenty 12 Flooring open new showroom

WE are really excited to be opening our new show room doors to the public on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 at 9am.

We are embarking on a massive lifestyle change with opening our store in Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry, (behind McDonald's).

For the past nine years, we have offered a home service Monday to Friday and have enjoyed the weekends off watching our three sons growing up, on the sidelines of almost every pitch in the country with rugby and football.

Sometimes we have lazed around or gone for walks – but now that will all stop as we will be opening weekends.

We have listened to our customers who wanted a showroom to see bigger samples of flooring so we have a very modern showroom room with a wide range of Carpets, Laminates, Vinyl, Wood and LVT. We will still offer our free home measuring and selection service to those who wish it.

We invite you to come along on Monday to our opening to browse around, grab a bargain, enjoy a cupcake and glass of bubbly with us. Bro Radio will also be with us until 1pm.

We hope that you will give us support and try us – if only for a quote.

Thank you to all of our customers past and present for helping us grow our business and enabling us to grow and take the next step with the showroom.

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Family collects a posthumous citizenship award

The family of Andrew Reekie receive the award.

THE family of Poppy Appeal organiser Andrew Reekie collected his Mayor's 'Citizenship Award' recently from the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Cllr Pam Davies.

Mr Reekie had organised the annual poppy appeal for the Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion for many years, helping to raise thousands of pounds, but he died last year.

Cllr Davies said: "Andrew was nominated for his citizenship award thanks to the dedication and hard work he showed in building up a well-oiled fundraising machine over several years.

"He was too ill to collect his award at the time of the 2017 ceremony, and has since died. I was very moved to meet his family and present them with the award in recognition of Andrew's outstanding achievements." **HC**

A youth club for people with additional learning needs has been launched in Coity

"Right! Who's hungry?" Staff and some of the youngsters of Helping Hands ALN youth club after the sponsored walk around Coity Castle.

YOUNG people and staff of Helping Hands – a new youth club based for youngsters with additional learning needs (ALN) – had fun taking part in a sponsored walk around Coity Castle before a barbecue on Thursday, April 26.

Admittedly, the weather was less than blazing sunshine, but the dozen or so youngsters, the club caters for people aged 12 to 19, had fun and welcomed a couple of new members that evening.

Helping Hands, based at St Mary's Church Hall in Coity and part of Fingers & Thumbs Day Care Centre, is a small, but growing group.

The club provides a range of activities for young people who might otherwise have limited opportunities to make friends and socialise with their peer group.

It meets on Thursday between 5pm and 7pm, costs £10 per session, and must be booked in advance.

New member "Luke", who went for the first time, said: "I love it! I made new friends here."

Luke's parents said: "We have found it hard to locate groups and activities for Luke where his occasionally challenging needs – a diagnosis of autism and learning difficulties – don't exclude him from taking part in a lot of the things that a growing lad or girl wants to do, but without us being around.

"It's a safe, but stimulating, environment with trained and experienced staff who clearly love what they do, and the youngsters just as clearly love and respect the grown-ups in return."

Helping Hands also runs a Wednesday after-school club, and a Saturday club. Both are for children aged between three and 11.

Caroline Davies of Fingers & Thumbs said: "We realised that provision for young people with a unique set of needs was limited in this part of Bridgend, and it is good to see the group growing."

Caroline added that the club not only has fun activities and trips, but also teaches the youngsters life skills.

"Our aim is to give the young people an opportunity to learn life skills in a safe, caring environment. They will be encouraged to prepare and cook their own meals, clean up after their meal, take part in a savings club, go on trips in the community where they have opportunities to socialise with others and spend money they have saved.

"We are always on the lookout for more members, and as a small group, fundraising or sponsorship by local companies would be a help, so do get in touch!"

For more information, contact Caroline at fingersandthumbscoity@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.fingersandthumbscoity.com. **AJ**

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Front elevation design produced by Dennis Hellyar Architects, Barry.

Should there be a heritage centre in the Garw Valley?

A CONSULTATION to determine if there is public support for a proposed Garw Valley heritage centre, to be sited in Pontycymer, will launch on May 4.

The project is a joint initiative between the Bridgend Valleys Railway (GVR) and the Garw Heritage Society (GHS).

Colin Williams, chairman of GVR, said 'We think that our partnership with the GHS to establish a place where the heritage and history of the Garw Valley can be celebrated will provide a real boost to our longer-term ambition, which is to get the heritage railway up and running from Bryngarw Country Park to Pontycymer.

"We are currently seeking funding for our proposals, which aren't set in stone, so we have today launched a consultation to find out what people think.'

The consultation will run for a fortnight from Friday, May 4 to Friday, May 18.

Those who want to take part will be able to fill out a questionnaire survey online or at outlets up and down the Garw Valley, as well as being able to attend a series of drop-in sessions where the proposals will be exhibited and there will be someone on hand to explain what the project is all about.

Regeneration project consultant Gareth Kiddie has been commissioned to help organise the consultation,

Mr Kiddie said: "The consultation is intended to find out whether local people want and need the project to proceed and if they do to use this as evidence to support a funding application to the Heritage Lottery and others.

"It's really important for the success of the project that local people, organisations, and businesses have the opportunity to contribute their own thoughts and ideas.

"I will be on hand to answer questions at the drop-in sessions and the results will be fed back to the project partners in the form of a consultation report with recommendations on the way forward for the project."

Mr Kiddie added that the consultation questionnaire will be available for completion online at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Garwheritage.

Drop-in sessions will be held as follows:

Monday, May 7 at Bryngarw Country Park, 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm; and The Green Meadow Inn, Llangeinor, 4.30pm - 6.30pm;

Wednesday, May 9 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall, 10am - 12 noon; Betws Community Club, 12.30pm - 2.30pm; and Pontycymer Life Centre 3pm - 5pm.

The consultation exercise together with the production of a Development Plan for the project is being funded by the Rural Development Plan for Wales – Thriving Rural Communities Scheme as administered in the Bridgend area by Reach. **WM**

Emmaus receives boost from local arts festival

A CONCERT organised by the Ewenny Arts Festival raised £650 for local homeless charity, Emmaus South Wales.

The concert took place on April 29 in Ewenny Priory church, with more than 100 people attending the event.

The atmosphere in the priory was described as being 'electric with everyone united in the aim to create a thoroughly memorable evening'.

There was a variety of musical entertainment during the evening from early music group ContraBand, mixed Welsh choir Cantorion Coety and the Ewenny Chamber Choir.

The venue's acoustics were described as 'perfect for both instrument and voice,' fully complimenting the range of musical styles. The event was a resounding success with the venue being full to the brim and a large amount of money raised.

A representative from Emmaus South Wales said: "We were delighted when we found out the Ewenny Arts Festival were holding a concert in aid of Emmaus South Wales. We really appreciate the support of local people and organisations. The money raised will help us to support people facing homelessness and social exclusion, to get their lives back on track."

The Ewenny Arts Festival was formed over 20 years ago as an early music festival. It has grown from strength to strength with a rolling programme of events including drama, jazz, and poetry to name a few.

Festival regularly donates to charity and was delighted to be able to support the valuable work carried out by Emmaus South Wales in supporting the homeless and socially excluded. **DG**

ORGANISERS 'SURPRISED' BY NUMBER OF ROUGH SLEEPERS USING NEW SERVICE

THE numbers of rough sleepers taking advantage of a new service which helps them get off the streets has taken organisers by surprise.

The pilot project in Bridgend which gives direct access to those in need of a bed for the night started in November 2017 after Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and its partners realised there was a lack of provision during wet weather.

Based in two rooms at The Kerrigan Project in Waterton, the scheme now provides nine beds but it expanded during the recent spell of snow and cold weather to accommodate up to 16 people.

Explaining the importance of the new service, a council report said: "A view was taken in early autumn that wet conditions can be just as, or even more, detrimental and that the temperature alone was not a relevant measure to determine service provision."

As well as a bed, rough sleepers are offered "intensive support" which has seen 14 people out of 53 accessing the service from November to February being housed.

Hailing the pilot as a "real success" Bridgend council housing manager Lynne Berry told councillors at a recent meeting: "The numbers of people using it has been a surprise to us – it has been consistently used.

"One of the really positive aspects of it is the intensive floating support that has made a difference to people coming in and accessing the service."

The service is run by the housing and care provider Gwalia (part of the Pobl Group) with breakfast being provided by homeless charity The Wallich – those staying overnight leave at 8am.

Lorraine Griffiths, area manager for Pobl, said: "The numbers of people we have supported going through has been a surprise to us as well.

"We are still surprised at the numbers presenting to us every day. We had up to 10 at the weekend and seven last night.

"Since November, 75 individuals have come through the provision – it isn't just about providing a bed which is important but understanding them and what their needs are."

Of the 53 people accessing the service up to February, 20 had substance misuse issues, 23 suffered from mental health issues, 17 were street homeless or 'sofa surfing', 16 were prison leavers, seven had debt issues and nine had domestic violence issues.

The service is for those aged 18 and over, and while priority is given to those with a local connection the criteria is 'relaxed' if there is space.

The service was discussed during a subject overview and scrutiny meeting at BCBC on April 19.

LDR

Major investment to create new business units at three key sites

A £5.5 MILLION pound programme of investment to help support start-up businesses at three key sites has been backed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Councillors have authorised a £5.5m Enterprise Hub Programme to create 1,800 square metres of new business units at Brocastle, develop three new light industrial blocks at the Village Farm Industrial Estate in Pyle, and refurbish the Innovation Centre at the Bridgend Science Park.

The number of new enterprises setting up in Bridgend is increasing at a quicker rate than for Wales as a whole, creating a situation where there are very few available business premises to rent for smaller companies in Bridgend county borough.

Working in partnership with the Welsh Government, the council's Enterprise Hub Programme would provide high quality premises for 58 micro to medium enterprises, supporting around 150 jobs.

Now that Cabinet Members and Full Council have given their approval to the proposal, council officers will enter into the final stage of negotiations with Welsh Government and the Welsh European Funding Office in relation to a funding package.

Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education, said: "This would represent the largest single programme of business property development ever undertaken by BCBC.

"There are 3,500 registered enterprises in the county borough, and that figure rose 10 per cent between 2010 and 2015. It's clearly very promising to see such growth, but the current demand for premises from small to medium businesses is outstripping supply."

Out of the county borough's 3,500 enterprises, 87 per cent of companies are self-employed micro enterprises that each employ fewer than nine people.

Thirty two per cent of the county borough's workforce are employed by micro enterprises, while small companies (10-49 employees) account for 16 per cent of the workforce and 13 per cent of the workforce are employed by medium companies (50-249 employees).

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Council considers closing all sixth forms in borough

A SHAKE-up of post-16 education in Bridgend county is underway with the closure of all sixth forms, mergers and greater collaboration among some of the options being considered.

The review comes after a £460,000 drop in post-16 funding for the local authority from Welsh Government as a result of falling student numbers due to demographics, and the loss of grant funds to cover transport costs.

Financial pressure has also led to a "steady erosion" in the range of subjects offered with the loss of 10 subjects in the past few years and 16 potentially on the "endangered list".

Presenting a report on the proposals at a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet meeting on Tuesday April 24, post-16 officer John Fabes said: "It is generally recognised by the local authority, schools and Bridgend College that the current partnership arrangements are not fit for purpose.

"From a learner perspective, there are significant anomalies and equity issues across the borough."

The council has drawn up a list of six concepts which will go out to public consultation between June and December.

The six concepts under consideration are:

• Concept 1 – The retention of sixth forms in all schools – the 'status quo'.

• Concept 2 – The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a local authority maintained sixth form centre.

• Concept 3 – The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a further education (FE) college-governed sixth form centre.

• Concept 4 – A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth form centre(s).

• Concept 5 – A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new FE college-governed sixth form centre(s)

• Concept 6 – A full tertiary model governed by the FE sector.

The council's preferred options are concepts four and five.

While capital funding bids for the development of sixth form centres can take years to finalise, the council is proposing a number of short to medium term measures.

It aims to "significantly improve" the collaboration among existing sixth forms and Bridgend College, with plans for integrated timetables and shared resources.

The proposals include all schools having a common timetable arrangement for their post-16 provision with lessons all starting and finishing at the same time, and a shared lunchtime.

A common sixth form option structure would be introduced with the 50-plus subjects available to all post-16 students and Bridgend College would be invited to offer a range of vocational courses in each of the option blocks.

A new student transport system would be set up to shuttle students between centres depending on what subjects they choose.

It is expected that the use of "blending learning" which includes a mix of online learning and traditional classroom methods will also be expanded.

Mr Fabes said the idea is that schools will jointly and strategically plan the post-16 offer.

The council aims to start work with schools this summer on the proposals to be ready for implementation in September 2019.

Recent reviews with schools revealed there was "significant support" for change.

Further details on the consultation and process will come before the council's cabinet next month.

The estimated increase in costs for student transport between schools is £100,000 with an overall cost estimated to be £165,000. Mr Fabes said the costs would be offset by savings from a reduction in teaching sets.

LDR

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CALLOUS BURGLARS TARGET DISABLED ADULTS' WORKSHOP AT BRYNGARW

SOUTH Wales Police reports that a burglary took place at B-Leaf – a work-based initiative for adults with disabilities – at Bryngarw Country Park sometime overnight between Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25.

A force spokesperson said: "Power tools and garden equipment were stolen from the centre including strimmers, lawn mowers and fuel.

"Anyone who may have witnessed anything unusual in the vicinity or who may have information to assist officers is asked to call police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 55111 and quote reference 1800143978."

Campaign is started to replace stolen items

A CAMPAIGN has been started to replace the items stolen in the above burglary.

A spokeswoman for B-Leaf said: "The incident has sadly had a massive impact on the trainees as they value routine and structure in their lives; losing this equipment has been incredibly disruptive to them.

"We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we have received since our bad news was shared on our social media pages and covered on ITV Wales news.

"The trainees, and the team of staff who support them, are truly grateful for the offers of donations and equipment, which will to allow them to carry on with their work.

"Whilst we were covered by insurance, the donations we receive will be used to upgrade the gardening tools and equipment and make security improvements around the centre."

Donations can be made to: www.gofundme.com/tools-amp-equipment

B-Leaf is managed by a registered charity, Awen Cultural Trust.

HOT AIR? BCBC PLANNING LOCAL 'HEAT NETWORKS'

A HEAT network system which could eventually lead to the cutting of energy bills for residents is being planned for Bridgend town centre.

The project's £2 million first phase involves the installation of a combined heat and power boiler at Bridgend Life Centre which would then be used to warm not only the leisure centre but the nearby bowls hall, the civic offices and the new Sunnyside development being built by Linc Cymru.

Subject to obtaining a £665,000 grant from the UK government and a full business case being approved, the network's first phase will be operational in October 2020.

With energy being supplied to the four connected buildings through underground pipes in the network's first phase, the council is expected to reduce its energy costs by between five and 10 per cent.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), which has developed the project, hopes further heat networks will be built across the county with the potential for linking them over time.

A second scheme is being looked into centred on the Princess of Wales Hospital, Glanrhyd Hospital and the Wildmill Estate.

Future phases involve the network expanding to connect dozens of schools, houses in Brackla, the Parc Afon Ewenny development, South Wales Police Headquarters and industrial parks.

BCBC first began investigating heat network opportunities six years ago.

On Tuesday April 24, BCBC's cabinet approved the financial case for the project.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting, council leader Huw David said: "This is a prestigious project and we are leading the way in Wales.

"We also have the Caerau mine-water project and we are the first in the UK to be developing a large scale project like that.

"We are thinking about the future and planning for the future – we have to reduce the energy we consume and we have to make sure the energy we do use is from more renewable sources.

"This project is subject to a full business case and we will have to ensure that stacks up but there are major opportunities here for us to take advantage from UK government grants and support from Welsh Government."

Cabinet member for communities Richard Young added: "Most individual buildings within Bridgend town centre are heated with boilers that are fired by fossil fuels.

"This carbon intensive approach cannot continue if we are to contribute to the Welsh Government's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050.

"Heat networks are the way forward. This long-term project will have significant environmental, social and economic benefits for the area.

The council is expected to form a separate company to run the heat network.

It was not reported what fuel or fuels the heat networks will employ.

LDR

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Maendy Young Farmers at the Welsh Blood Service talk recently.

A positive talk about blood donation for Maendy YFC

MAENDY Young Farmers Club recently held an enlightening talk by the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) at The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

The speaker was Jess O'Brian from the WBS. The presentation was educational for members, many of whom had never donated blood.

Currently, the Welsh Blood Service needs over 100,000 units of blood per year to supply hospitals across Wales, meaning they need around 450 units per day.

Chairman Kate Thomas said: "It was a very informative talk; members learned not just about the blood service, but about donating bone marrow too. I was really surprised that only three per cent of the Welsh population actively donate blood.

"We are planning a club night in May, where members will be donating blood at the Blood Service headquarters in Talbot Green. We are all looking forward to it; for many it will be their first time."

For more information on the Welsh Blood Service, find them on Facebook and Twitter. Alternatively, if you would like to see where your nearest donation clinic is, go to welsh-blood.org.uk.

The upcoming Glamorgan YFC sports day is the next event in the YFC calendar. It will be held on May 13 at Pendoylan Church In Wales Primary School.

Members will be getting active in a range of competitions, including netball, hockey, and dodgeball.

If you would like to know more about Maendy YFC, email maendy.yfc@gmail.com, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @MaendyYFC and the Maendy YFC Facebook group.

Local nursery hits the top 20

THE day nursery at St Clare's School in Newton, Porthcawl has been recognised as one of top 20 nurseries in Wales

Simon Antwis, headteacher, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to receive the accolade of Top 20 Award 2018 (Wales) from Daynurseries.co.uk. We couldn't be prouder of our staff who work so hard each and every day to provide each pupil with a rich, stimulating experience tailored to their individual needs.

"It means a tremendous amount to be recommended by our families and we truly appreciate this recognition."

HF

St Clare's Nursery pupils and staff with the award.

Bridgend Quiz League teasers

THESE are the teasers for this week:

1. Where in this sentence would you find a 'tittle'?

2. Which author said: "I can resist everything except temptation"?

3. In the wild west, who were George Leroy Parker and Harry Longabaugh?

Steve Kingscott (Sec BDQL)

ANSWERS

1. It is the name of the dot above an 'i'.
2. Oscar Wilde.
3. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

Bridgend Lions' donation to local cancer charity

RECENTLY, Bridgend Lions president Patrick Halliwell presented a cheque for £1,000 for Velindre Cancer Care/Y Bwthyn to Sian Phillips, who organised a wonderful, fundraising evening at Tondu Cricket Club on April 14.

The evening (Brown's Bash) was in memory of Karen Brown, a dear friend of Sian and loving mum of two children, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Sian is pictured next to the president, flanked by Karen's three nieces.

Patrick Halliwell presents the cheque.

Happy birthday to all at Sker WI!

Avril, Gloria and Yvonne shared their birthday celebration with Sker WI and St George!

BIRTHDAYS are often a time for celebration with friends and family and Sker WI's birthday was no different.

On St Georges Day, April 23, 42 members of Sker WI came together to celebrate its 52nd anniversary at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Porthcawl Bandits (formerly Porthcawl Ukulele Band). The Bandits entertained everyone with their versatile, humorous performance and songs that encouraged members to sing along and dance.

They also led everyone in a rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem' in honour of both the WI and England's patron saint.

Three members, Avril Questle, Gloria Long and Yvonne Guttridge, also shared their birthday with Sker WI, as did 'Bandit' Paul.

A rendition of 'Happy Birthday' was duly sung.

A vote of thanks was given to the committee members who had worked so hard for the event.

The next meeting will be on May 10 at 7pm at St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village. This will be the AGM and members are asked to wear pearls for the occasion.

Find out more on Facebook page: SkerWI@NottageVillage.

CHRISTINE BEYNON

Rising success for Lift West

The team at Lift West has welcomed the new appointments.

EXCITING times lie ahead for Lift West's depot in Maesteg, Bridgend.

The forklift and warehouse equipment supplier, which also has depots in Somerset and Staffordshire, was acquired by Staffordshire-based businessman Simon Clarke in January this year.

Since then, the business has been successful in making a number of important appointments in order to bolster the team based at its depot on the Heol-ty-Gwyn Industrial Estate.

Lift West's managing director, Steve Potter, said: "At Lift West we believe in providing not only an excellent quality product, but also the right solution to our customers and we are prepared to back this up with a big commitment to our after sales service.

"Our sales and service manager at Bridgend, Andrew John, has been delighted to welcome two new recruits, Kevin Arnold to the sales team and Ian John into the service team, further enabling us to be a major provider of material handling equipment to SME's in south Wales."

Formed in 1987, Lift West supplies a wide range of new and used forklift trucks and warehouse equipment, together with full service, maintenance and spares.

A spokesperson said: "Lift West prides itself on offering individual solutions to meet specific client requirements. The company is one of the largest UK independent supplier of the TCM range of Forklifts and employs 80 people across its three sites."

Mr John said: "The addition of Kevin and Ian adds some great industry experience and depth to our team and means we can further improve on the services we are able to offer.

"Having a depot located centrally in south Wales is of vital importance to our customers, and our location is ideal given its proximity to the local motorway. We are continually making investments and improvements to our depot so the future is bright for Lift West and our customers."

CI

£5m care home upgrade creates 100 local jobs

At the ribbon cutting were (from left to right), Brian West, Sanjiv Joshi, Tom Watson, Janet Caffrey, Meriel John, Chris Elmore, Huw Irranca-Davies, Marie Lakin, Ramesh Patel, Melanie Minty, Alex Kelleher, Trevor Whymark and Vivienne Laing.

A FORMER care home has been brought back to life with a £5 million transformation, creating 100 new jobs in the Bridgend area.

The state-of-the-art facility for people with dementia at the 60-bedroom Anwen Care Home in Pantyrawel was officially opened by Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies, the Minister for Children and Social Care.

The former Blackmill care home, which was closed in 2012 ,was acquired by Care Inn which manages 13 care homes across south Wales.

They have spent four years fully upgrading the building and the first phase opened in 2014.

The latest and final phase of the project has seen the completion of a new ground floor facility featuring 11 bedrooms and communal garden area.

Some of the new rooms boast their own private garden areas with views of the surrounding hills and valleys, while a nostalgically-designed cinema room has been created to take residents on a trip back in time.

There's also a new café, hairdresser and beach area, complete with a Japanese pagoda.

The home incorporates the very latest innovative approaches to dementia care.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "It's great that more people are now able to benefit from this personalised and specialist care as well as the lovely facilities and surroundings at the home.

"The dedication, warmth, care, enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff who work there make a really positive difference to the quality of people's lives, which makes it such a special place."

Care Inn director Sanjiv Joshi said: "The completion of our ground floor unit is a significant milestone in our four-year journey to transform this redundant site into a modern, pioneering facility for the delivery of exceptional dementia care."

Work on the ground floor unit has included the construction of a new road providing ambulances direct access to the floor.

The building work, which was completed by Care Inn's Property team, concludes a four-year refurbishment project; however, there are plans to expand the accommodation in future.

Mario Kreft, the Chair of Care Forum Wales, said: "Anwen really is at the forefront of dementia care, not just providing first class facilities for residents but also embracing a personalised, responsive approach to care."

AUTISM CENTRE FOR PENCOED PRIMARY?

A SPECIALIST learning resource centre for children with autism is set to be created at Pencoed Primary School.

The centre is expected to open in September 2018 and cater for up to eight pupils with autism spectrum disorders, aged between seven and 11.

It will be run by one teacher and two learning support officers, and the curriculum will be tailored to meet the children's needs.

A final decision on the centre will be made by cabinet members at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in June.

A consultation with staff, parents, governors and pupils, as well as with the wider community, recently took place. Further comments are invited during the publication of a 28-day statutory notice on the plans.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on April 24, council leader Huw David said: "It is really important that children with autism, wherever possible, are educated within mainstream schools.

"They can receive support when they need it and when it's right for them, they can access mainstream provision, and be with their friends and peers."

The BCBC cabinet member for education, Cllr Charles Smith, said the centre was an "extremely important" provision.

He said: "The number of people with autism spectrum disorder is rising so we've been taking major steps to ensure that these young people can receive specialist support to meet their needs.

"A learning resource centre has already been established at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd so that Welsh-speaking children with autism could continue their secondary school education through the medium of Welsh.

"We are also developing a proposal to set up a resource at one of our Welsh-medium primary schools, so a lot of progress is being made."

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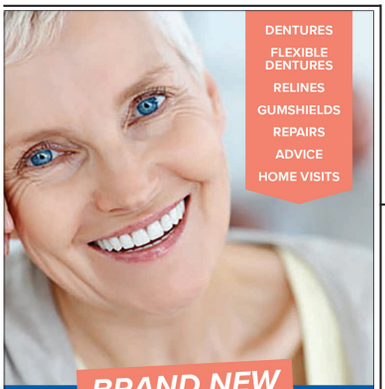

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Artistic duo come together to hold joint exhibition

Lydia, Jan, and Natalie at the launch evening of the exhibition.

LYDIA Nicholson and Jan Hoskins are holding their first animal and wildlife art exhibition together, which is on display at The Pavilion, Porthcawl.

They met on an 'online art forum' about 15 years ago, only to discover that they actually only lived a short distance away from each other and have been friends ever since.

Both are self taught and active members of Porthcawl Art Society who have supported each other through many ups and downs over the years, using their art as an 'escape from the real world'.

Lydia works in oil, acrylic, watercolour and pastel and paints animals, flowers, seascapes, and landscapes. Jan works predominantly in pastels and specialises in animals and wildlife.

The exhibition will run until June 10.

Thanks go to Natalie Harpin and the staff at The Pavilion for their assistance in the organisation of the event.

JH

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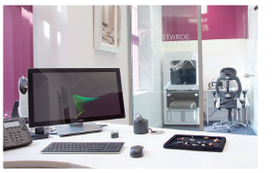

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BRIDGE OF SPIES AT COMMUNITY CINEMA

THE next film at All Saints Community Cinema, Penarth, on Thursday, May 17, will be *Bridge of Spies*, directed and co-produced by Steven Speilberg, starring Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Amy Ryan and Alan Alda.

Mark Rylance won the best supporting Oscar for his performance in this film.

Set during the Cold War, the film tells the story of lawyer James B Donovan, who is entrusted with negotiating the release of Francis Gary Powers – an American Air Force pilot whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over the soviet Union in 1960 – in exchange for Rudolf Abel, a convicted Soviet KGB spy.

For tickets call Jane on 07966 882459.

Cardiff Airport working towards 'Real Living Wage'

GEM reader David Alexander wrote to us to express his views on the rates of pay of security staff at Cardiff Airport. The GEM contacted the airport for a response which follows.

Mr Alexander wrote:

Having acquired a lovely new granddaughter, a little Welsh/Dutch girl, my wife and I have taken regular visits to Amsterdam through Cardiff Airport.

Travelling by air more frequently than our previous annual dose of Greek sunshine, I discovered to my horror that the people who work tirelessly to ensure our safety – the security staff – are, apparently, paid less than the 'real living wage' (£8.79 an hour).

If these were security people in a museum who sit on a seat in the corner guarding against the hugely remote possibility that someone will try to steal a Titian it might be a different matter.

Working the security gate at an airport is a totally different task.

These people work under constant pressure to get large groups of people checked and through security as efficiently as possible.

They have deal with all sorts of people with patience, tact and courtesy – from disabled people who need special help, to people of various faiths and ethnicities who may need to be dealt with differently, to sports fans, stag parties and hen parties full of high spirits who might need a little diplomatic calming down.

A very difficult aspect of their job is having to enforce regulations that some people object to – having to confiscate items that cannot be taken on board a plane in hand luggage for example.

Occasionally, and it is very occasionally, those objections can become vehement or even abusive or threatening.

The security gate is the 'front line' in ensuring the safety of aircraft passengers; the staff on that gate do all the above while being constantly vigilant to ensure that safety.

I don't think it is it fair or acceptable that on top of that pressure the security staff are paid so little that they have to struggle to pay their bills. My view is that the people who give such sterling service, in such an important role, deserve at least a decent living wage.

The airport security staff are being assisted, along with other groups who are poorly paid, by 'Citizens Cymru'.

So far negotiations with the airport management have, I'm led to believe, been unsuccessful.

I will be joining with others in a day of protest on May 1, which is International Workers Day; readers who would like add their support can contact jonathan.cox@citizenswales.org.uk.

In response, a spokeswoman for Cardiff Airport said: "For clarity concerning wages, Cardiff Airport already pays above the National Living Wage for all staff – both above and below the age of 25.

"We are also committed to working towards achieving the Real Living Wage with a pledge to have this in place by April 2020, subject to the airport moving back to a position of profitability by that date.

"This position was agreed with the recognised unions in 2016.

"The current union-agreed pay award sets pay levels until April 2019.

"Based on planning and assumptions, we are currently aiming to ensure that airport staff, across all departments, are paid at least the Real Living Wage by 2020.

"The phased approach is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the airport business, securing jobs and future growth.

"Cardiff Airport is on a robust recovery plan and we are proud of the progress achieved since the change to Welsh Government ownership in 2013. The airport was at the lowest point in its history, making significant losses and was in very real danger of being closed, with the subsequent loss of up to 2,000 jobs across the airport site.

"Our focus is on continuing the journey of growth and improvement, whilst delivering a sustainable airport for Wales and protecting the 250 members of staff and the 2,600 indirect and induced jobs in the region.

"The airport also significantly benefits the local economy with an overall GVA (gross value added) impact of £102 million."

Car hits rocks at Ogmore-by-Sea

THE police attended an incident at Ogmore By Sea car park on Monday, April 30, after a car went onto the rocks.

A spokeswoman explained: "Officers responded to calls raising concern for a member of the public whose car had gone onto the rocks at around 1.19pm.

"The Welsh Ambulance Service were also in attendance."

A Welsh Ambulance spokesman said: "We were called at shortly before 2pm to reports a car had collided with rocks at Ogmore-by-Sea.

"We sent a crew in an emergency ambulance and a man was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend with minor injuries."

TC

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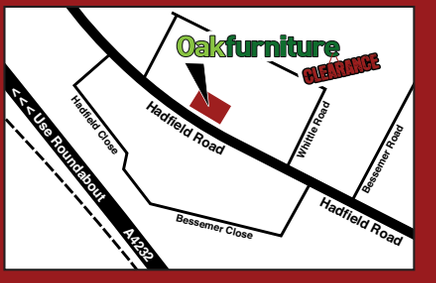

Farmers are out in force for a tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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THE rural community in the Vale was out in force recently for a tractor run in aid of the Ed Evans Foundation.

The convoy of vehicles made their way around the Vale, and GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture these images.

Comprehensive school visited by local MP

PORTHCAWL Comprehensive School was visited recently by Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, who came in to school to talk to sixth formers about the workings of Parliament and her life as an MP.

She told them how 'daunting' it had been to arrive in Westminster when she was elected in 2005, and of the 'honour' of becoming the 264th female MP of all time.

She said that there was no training for the job and nothing could have prepared her for the 'overwhelming sense of responsibility' when she entered the chamber for the first time.

Mrs Moon took questions from the pupils about manifesto promises and her career to date.

MC

Porthcawl Lions get ready for boot sale

ON Saturday, Porthcawl Lions were in John Street with their book stall from 10am until 4pm – the Lions intend to hold their book sale on the first Saturday of the month throughout the summer.

On Sunday, members of the Porthcawl Lions took part in the Walk for Life, organised by the Porthcawl branch of KRUF and in doing so, raised funds for that worthy organisation.

Even busier days are approaching for the Porthcawl Lions with the start of the car boot season at Porthcawl Rugby ground, South Road, on Sunday, May 6, starting at 8am and going on until 1pm. A modest charge of £6 per car is the same as last year.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, it is the big May Fayre at All Saints Church, starting at 11am until 4pm with stalls, games, entertainment and the now annual Teddy Bears Picnic.

Dogs are also invited to the dog show in the afternoon, organised by PAWS and there are prizes to be won.

Details of all the activities of the Lions are on their web page porthcawllions.org.

TUMMY-TICKLING TIME FOR NANCY!

Nancy with Dogs Trust staff member Kirsty.

NANCY is a beautiful four-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who is very affectionate and especially loves having her tummy tickled.

She is looking to live with owners who are around for most of the day, so if you work from home, this would be ideal. Nancy will need continued work to build on her socialising skills with other dogs.

She can live with children 11 years and over who have lived with dogs previously and she would be best suited in a pet-free home.

Nancy's favourite carer, Gabby, said: "Nancy is a big-hearted girl with a lot of love to give. She enjoys a cuddle in the sun and loves to be on your lap. She is very bright and loves her toys and puzzle games."

For more information on Nancy, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG or call 01656 725219. You can also visit the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Prison officer's misconduct in public office

Shauna Cleary. Image from Wales News Service.

Kurt Jarman. Image from Wales News Service.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cleary, from Pontypridd, admitted misconduct in public office.

The court heard she had been working at G4S-run HM Parc Prison in Bridgend from August 2016 to November 2017.

Judge Williams said she had been "terribly compromised and vulnerable to being manipulated".

Cleary was given a 16-week suspended prison sentence and ordered to do 15 days of rehabilitation activity at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jarman was jailed in 2016 after he threatened to kill a pensioner, cut his neck with a Stanley knife, ransacked his house, and marched him to a cash point.

The rugby player was drunk when he forced his way into the house in Machynlleth, Powys, and pushed his victim to the floor.

Jarman admitted possessing a mobile phone inside prison and was jailed for a further six months.

Wales News Service

CARE LEAVERS EXEMPT FROM COUNCIL TAX UNTIL THEY ARE 25

THE Vale Council has agreed to exempt care leavers from paying council tax in a move designed to 'ease the pressure on them as they embark on adult life'.

It comes after Barry councillor Vincent Bailey raised the issue in full council in December.

The council has dispensation under the Local Government Finance Act (1992) to provide council tax relief to certain groups. The local authority's cabinet agreed to extend this to care leavers at a meeting on April 30.

Cllr Bailey said the measure was designed to help a group of people who were often setting out on life alone because they didn't have family support.

"Care leavers face disproportionately high barriers to gaining employment and education, and a council tax exemption will remove some of the financial pressures they face.

"It's tough enough for any young person setting out to live alone, but for someone leaving care without the support of their parents, managing money can be a huge task.

"This is about giving a helping hand to some of the most vulnerable members of society – and I am proud to have helped raise the profile of this serious issue."

Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the council, said: "Children and young people who are looked after by the local authority, rather than their parents, are among the most vulnerable in our communities.

"Care leavers face a great many challenges when they move into independent accommodation and begin to manage their own finances fully for the first time. The move we have agreed is designed to make this transition a little easier.

"Although the number of people likely to receive this discount is very small, it has the potential to have a hugely beneficial impact on their lives and so I am delighted to have been able to bring it into effect."

The exemption will apply to all care leavers until they reach the age of 25. It will cover the full cost of any council tax due and will be backdated to April 1, 2018.

The council estimates that the cost will be less than £10,000 a year.

GR

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Art fair

FOLLOWING the success of the community art exhibition 'Visual Perspectives' which ran throughout April, a Community Art Fair will be held at the Old Hall, Cowbridge throughout May.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm. Contact christine@icreateart.co.uk if you wish to exhibit/sell any of your current art work.

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Dog breeder who made £50,000 by mis-selling puppies receives a suspended sentence

A DOG breeder has received a suspended sentence and a curfew after Cardiff Crown Court heard how she had advertised puppies for sale that she did not have, lied about their genetic make-up and overbred her animals.

Following a successful prosecution by the Vale Council, Lisa Canning was sentenced to 30 weeks on each of five counts, suspended for two years together with 200 hours of unpaid work to be completed in 12 months and a four-month night time curfew.

Canning made around £50,000 from the unlawful trade through her business 4 Small Paws, which was based first at East Aberthaw and then Castle-upon-Alun, selling dogs through such websites as Pets4Hones, Preloved Pets and Gumtree.

Less than a week before her Crown Court trial was due to begin, she pleaded guilty to four counts of fraud and one of engaging in unfair commercial practice.

Ms Canning was selling dogs as sought-after breeds for high prices, suggesting they had full vaccination and medical histories.

But the investigation revealed a very different story about their background and there was often no record of any veterinary procedures having been carried out.

Some dogs had been acquired from unknown sources and locations, while others had been bred in breach of the terms of her licence.

Ms Canning claimed to sell Cockerpoos, Cocker Spaniels, Chocolate Labradors, Cavipoos, Pugs and Scottish Terriers, though some of the dogs weren't what they appeared.

One family purchased what they thought was a Cockerpoo, a cross between a Cocker Spaniel and a Miniature Poodle, for £650 but DNA tests revealed the dog was actually 25 per cent Miniature Poodle, 25 per cent Toy Poodle and 50 per cent Bichon Frise.

Another individual was told they had bought a Golden Labrador after parting with £750, only for DNA tests to prove it was actually 37.5 per cent Labrador Retriever, 12.5 per cent Golden Retriever and 50 per cent Cocker Spaniel.

Both dogs were sold with no paperwork to verify their breed and medical history, and only a voucher offering four weeks' free insurance was provided. In both of the above cases, the dates of birth proved to be questionable, and the exact age of the puppies was therefore unknown.

At Ms Canning's kennels, dogs fell pregnant more often than was permitted and some before they were legally old enough, meaning she was producing more animals than allowed.

Following Ms Canning's arrest, a number of animals were placed with Hope Rescue, a local dog rescue charity that works in partnership with the Council.

Ms Canning also engaged in a practice known as 'bait advertising', which involves advertising an animal a person does not own in order to entice a customer to buy another.

Customers were also misled by being directed to purchase Canning's puppies from a friend of hers who posed as a private breeder.

Yhe court was told that, in total, more than 100 puppies were unlawfully sold, though Ms Canning's chaotic record keeping meant it was impossible to establish the exact number.

In passing sentence, Judge Crowther QC told Lisa Canning that her actions were calculated to defraud the public and she had criminally enriched herself to the tune of £50,000. She had a long-standing licence to breed dogs that imposed restrictions and she breached every one.

He said: "It wasn't simply failure to not have regard to a licence, you took other measures to avoid conditions. This was a front for puppy farms and a conduit through which those maligned businesses operate. This wasn't a victimless crime; the harm is that you play on people's emotions, children especially."

Canning was ordered to pay a total of £46,595 in costs, compensation of £3,095 and a victim surcharge.

Cllr Hunter Jarvie, a member of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee, said: "This business was operating fraudulently on a large scale with absolutely no regard for the rules and regulations put in place to protect both animals and customers.

"Hard work from Shared Regulatory Services officers, on behalf of the council, has ensured this individual has been brought to justice.

"The Vale Council will not tolerate this kind of operation, which defrauds people looking for pets out of significant sums of money and mistreats animals. I hope the severity of the punishment handed out acts as a deterrent to others thinking of committing similar offences."

Vanessa Waddon, Founder of Hope Rescue, added: "When we took in four of Ms Canning's Cocker Spaniels, all of which were heavily pregnant, the effects of these young dogs being used as nothing more than breeding machines were clear to see. As well as having various health issues, they were all completely withdrawn and wary of human contact.

"We spent several thousands of pounds taking care of the dogs and their pups that were all born in our care, picking up the cost of Ms Canning's neglect.

"She was clearly putting profit above the wellbeing of the dogs, and our thanks go to the Vale Council for pursuing this case to ensure she faced justice." **CS**

Some of the puppies were not what they appeared.

Keen bargain Hunters head for mid Wales

ON Bank Holiday weekend (May 5 and 6), the International Antique and Home and Vintage Fair of Wales returns to the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

The twice-yearly show has two sets of TV shows coming to film at the event. *Bargain Hunt* will be filming four shows over the two days which will he aired in the autumn.

A spokesperson said: "*Bargain Hunt* is a regular visitor to the show and have been filming for many years with different presenters.

"The second TV crew is from *Salvage Hunters*, where Drew, an antique dealer, hunts out items to restore and then re-sell at a later date. This is their first visit to the Antique Home and Vintage Show which has been running for 15 years."

The fair opens on Saturday, May 5 morning at 8.30am and closes at 5pm. It then re-opens on Sunday morning at 10am and closes at 5pm.

For further information, call Continuity Fairs on 0770 3558600.

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Search and rescue drones tested

THE RNLI and Maritime and Coastguard Agency tested drones in search and rescue scenarios off the Vale coastline last week.

The aim was to use a selection of drones to explore whether they could be helpful in saving lives in the future.

The scenarios being tested were a shoreline search for a casualty; an offshore search for multiple casualties in the sea; a mud rescue and a communications blackspot where a drone is required to relay information between rescue teams and a casualty on a cliff.

Hannah Nobbs, of the RNLI's innovation team, explained: "The aim of the event was to provide realistic scenarios and an authentic operating environment to explore the use of drones in multi-agency operations.

"We hope this will allow us to understand the benefits and limitations of their use in search and rescue activity.

"The week-long test event was the culmination of around two years of work, where we've explored the use of drones in collaboration with key search and rescue partners and industry experts.

"The RNLI has a proud history of embracing new technology – from cork lifejackets in the 1800s to the design and build of our waterjet-propelled Shannon class lifeboat.

"So, it's very exciting for us to now explore the potential use of drones in search and rescue activity, in partnership with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency."

Phil Hanson of the MCA, said that while drones can't replicate what helicopters can do, they could become a vital new tool for rescuers.

"There is significant evidence emerging from our overseas counterparts and more locally from UK mountain rescue teams indicating that drones can play a crucial role in emergency response.

"It's too early to comment on how we will move forward from the trials but one thing we all agree on is that drones cannot replace helicopters, coastguard rescue teams or lifeboats. However, it is entirely possible that they could be an additional tool to use in search and rescue."

The RNLI and MCA were helped in carrying out the tests by Lockheed Martin UK, Scisys and the University of Bath.

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Out & About with The GEM

'SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE' AT VALE WALKING FESTIVAL

THE 2018 Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival programme is "probably the most inclusive we've yet devised," according to the organiser, Valeways Festival chair, Marion Eynon, with something for everyone.

The theme is 'The Year of the Sea,' but there's no need to be a hardcore coastal hiker to take part in the festival, which starts on Tuesday, May 15.

"Eleven of our 28 walks are three miles or less, so if you aren't a seasoned walker or you feel gentler terrain suits you best, then it's the perfect occasion to dip a (well-shod) toe in the water.

"Some of the walks, organised by the walking charity, Valeways, are in the Cowbridge, Barry and Llantwit areas and are perfect for seniors – the least junior person joining Valeways' regular strollers is in her 90s!" said Marion.

"At the other end of the spectrum, we have a family trail around Amelia Farm at Walterston, on Saturday, May 19, giving children a chance to revel in the wildlife and farm animals.

"So, all ages, all tastes and more vigorous challenges, like the eight mile, glorious panoramic leg-stretcher over the downs at Ogmore, are on the programme, too".

For full details of all walks see valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk, call 01446 749000 or see them in The GEM.

HW

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What's on in your area

Cowbridge Country Market

COME along to the Lesser Hall on Friday, May 4 for a wonderful selection of home grown plants, all excellent value. There will also be all the usual freshly-made produce ready for the spring bank holiday.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, May 5 from 10am-11am at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street; no appointment necessary.

Art exhibition

LLANTWIT MAJOR Art and Craft Group will hold its annual exhibition of paintings and craft work on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 between 10am and 4pm at the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

All welcome; meet the artists and enjoy some light refreshments. Admission free.

For the Gwanwyn Festival, the group have set up an Art Trail around Llantwit Major for the whole of May. Both events are being sponsored by Age UK and Arts Council Wales and further details can be obtained either at the exhibition or at the information centre.

Dementia help

ARE you looking how to support a loved one or relative with dementia? Did you know games can help with memory loss?

A dementia awareness champion will hold a session on Tuesday, May 8 at at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon.

Trained volunteer computer support will be also be available. No appointment is needed; just come along. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Independent living

ARE you a carer, relative or living on your own and need advice on acquiring aids to make life easier to live independently?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a informal drop in advice session on Tuesday, May 8 from 10am to 12 noon at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Get advice on stair lifts, home adaptations, and mobility aids. Snowdrops Independent Living will give advice. For further information, contact 01446 732385 or just come along; no appointment necessary.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a talk entitled 'Brunel in South Wales (Part 1)' by Stephen K Jones, at 2pm on Wednesday, May 9 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Cardiomyopathy group meets

THE Cardiomyopathy UK Bridgend Support Group will meet next at The Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed (CF35 5PE) on Saturday, May 12 from 2pm-4pm.

The speaker will be Moira Ashton, BHF heart failure specialist nurse who will be giving a talk on heart failure and its management.

Art exhibition at Llantonian Hall

LLANTWIT MAJOR Art and Craft Group is holding its annual exhibition at Llantonian Hall on May 5 and May 6 from 10am until 4pm.

A spokesman said: "The exhibition will include a diverse range of art and craft work produced by the members of the group. The group meets at the Llantonian Hall on the first and third Friday of the month, 7.30pm-9pm.

"Meetings include a range of practical workshops or demonstrations and members practical evenings when we develop our own work. We are pleased to welcome new members and visitors to the meetings."

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Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

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Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl
Beverley 07912 172674

Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Tuesdays 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 07951 510871

Wednesday 9.30am
Trinity Church, John Street Porthcawl
Beverley 07912 172674

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Wednesday 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

Wednesdays 6.00pm
5th Barry Sea Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry.
Karl 07411 621866

Thursdays 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
Sarn & Bryncwlis Social Club, Bryncoch Road, Sarn
Scott 07776062802

Thursdays 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Thursdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 07809 901008

Thursdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
The Bayside Room, Hi Tide, Porthcawl, CF36 5BT
Rachel 07779 956233

Thursdays 9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill
Millie 07765 040006

Thursdays 9.30am and 11.30am
Memoral Hall, Cenotaph Entrance, Gladstone Road, Barry.
Nicola 07951 510871

Thursdays 5.30pm
St. Davids Church Hall, Wimbourne Road, Pencoed
Donna 07790 797008

Thursdays 9.30am
Nolton Church Hall, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend
Donna 07790 797008

Friday 9.30am
Cornelly Community Centre, Heol Las CF33 4AS
Rachel 07779 956233

Fridays 9.30am and 11.30am
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 07809 901008

Saturdays 7.30am, 9.30am and 11.30am
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Saturday 8.00am & 10.00am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 07809 901008

Saturdays 9.30am
The Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan
Helen 07968 355119

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It will be held at Barry Rugby Club, Reservoir Fields, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9TH (next to Bryn Hafren School).

Come and join us for an evening of open mic and live music! There will also be an auction and a bar available throughout the evening.

In support of Mental Health Awareness Week, we will also have speakers from various mental health charities present, voicing the importance of volunteering and what it can do for your wellbeing.

Tickets £3 (available in our Cats Protection store on Holton Road, Barry or on the door).

All proceeds raised will go towards Cats Protection.

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'Boating and bathing on the Somme' – a Porthcawl man's break from the War

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS DURING WW1 – MAY 1918

Glam Evans during WW1.

Private Gordon S Perry.

Porthcawl promenade with the Seabank in the background.

CERI JOSEPH of Porthcawl Museum continues her fascinating look at life in Porthcawl 100 years ago during World War One – this month it is May, 1918.

MAY 1: 'Weather nice. Boating and bathing on the Somme' is an entry in the diary of 2nd Lieutenant Arthur David Glanffrwd (Glan) Evans MC, Glamorgan RHA, which he kept from the beginning of the German Offensive – March 21, 1918, to the Armistice November 11, 1918.

That well-earned respite had been hard won fighting near Villers Brettoneux, in the defence of Amiens, one of Germany's objectives outlined in their Georgette Offensive, which, by April 29, had stalled.

Villers Bretonneux itself had been lost on April 24 but was regained during that same night by the Australian Infantry, resulting in "a few hundred Boche prisoners".

From May 16, Glan's unit was stationed at Bonnay, which he describes as a "Very good spot. Hardly any shells about. Lovely country". Glan then went on leave from May 29, during which time his unit moved up to Vaux-sur-Somme, on June 26, where they, "fired in support of a little show by the Aussies. We begin to take the initiative," he writes.

By the time Glan had returned from leave, on July 1, the German threat had all but abated and over 500,000 more Americans had arrived in support of the allies.

In future issues, August-November, the diary will again furnish us with his personal account of the Last Hundred Days.

Glan was promoted to Major at the end of the war, returned home to work, initially at the Briton Ferry Steel Company and later, at the Neath Canal Company, from whence he retired as manager in 1971.

He remained in the Territorials and moved to Porthcawl a few years prior to World War Two, during which conflict, as Major ADG Evans, he commanded the 24th (Glamorgan) Battalion Home Guard.

In 1948 he married Rita Davies and their son, David, was born in 1950; yet in more recent memory, Glan is remembered locally for being the organist at the Grand Pavilion in the 1960s.

Sadly, Glan died after a short illness in June 1974, aged 81 years.

The 400,000 Americans who had arrived in France, by May 1, had depended on the allies for ammunition, equipment and relevant combat training. Britain supplied helmets, ammunition, tanks and rifles, whilst the French supplied field guns, aircraft and machine guns.

Having gained experience, led by Allied Commanders defending relatively quiet sections of the Western Front, on May 28 the 1st Division, American Expeditionary Force, went into action at the Battle of Cantigny.

June would witness America's ever-growing influence on the outcome of the war.

In Porthcawl, the first week of May brought sad news of another Porthcawlian who had died whilst serving his country.

Private Gordon Stanley Perry, 1st Battalion, Welsh Regiment, died in Salonika, April 24, 1918, from Blackwater fever; a complication of malaria.

Stanley, as he was known, had been born in Penarth in 1895 to William and Louisa Perry, the youngest of four boys and three girls. By 1911, the family had moved to New Road, Porthcawl, where the Census Record registers his father, as a 'cab proprietor,' but by 1918, William had become the postmaster at New Road, Post Office (opposite the Brogden Hotel).

On leaving school, Stanley was apprenticed as a building clerk in the town. He was a very good athlete and had 'a splendid gift for singing'.

Following the outbreak of war, Stanley had initially joined the South Wales Borderers, but within a year had been transferred to the Welsh Regiment.

Sadly, a week before his death, his parents had received a telegram informing them that their son, through suffering severe bouts of malaria, had become dangerously ill. The telegram that they must have dreaded, arrived very shortly afterwards.

Private Gordon Stanley Perry is one of 1,180 Commonwealth servicemen buried in the Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria. He was 23 years old.

Within Mikra cemetery, which is just outside Salonika (today called Thessaloniki), is the Mikra Memorial.

Almost 500 nurses, officers and men of the Commonwealth forces who died when troop transports and hospital ships were lost in the Mediterranean, and who have no grave but the sea, are commemorated there.

Better news of another Porthcawlian, suffering from malaria, reached the town on May 2. Private Thomas Isaac Russell, 23rd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, referred to in the Porthcawl News as 'Porthcawl's Own,' had been brought home from Salonika and was recuperating in Cardiff.

Tom, the oldest of three brothers and three sisters, was born in Tonyrefail, on April 8, 1895. Their father, Frederick, who was a coal-miner, brought the family to live at 24 George Street, Porthcawl in 1910, whereupon Tom followed him into the mines.

However, in October 1915, Tom, now married, enlisted into the 23rd Battalion at Porthcawl, together with his younger brother George. His brother, Morgan, had previously joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in December of 1914, but had been severely wounded earlier in 1918, which had resulted in him being discharged and awarded a Silver Badge later in the year.

Tom, too, survived the war, whereas George, it seems, never quite got involved at all.

At the age of 15 years, George had enlisted into the Glamorgan Yeomanry in Bridgend on April 26, 1915, giving his age as 18 years and six months. By May 28 he had been rumbled and was discharged. He was obviously still determined to enlist as he then attested at Porthcawl with his brother Tom on October 26, 1915.

It is interesting to note that he had had his 16th birthday on October 22 and carried a letter from his mother, Caroline, giving her permission for him to enlist for the duration of the war.

He was accepted because he gave his age as 17 years old, which, with a letter of support from a parent, was a legal outcome.

However, after undergoing training at Newton, Elveden Camp, Thetford, and Pirbright, during which time he had been punished four times for disobeying orders and using bad language, his true age was finally revealed.

He was discharged from Pirbright on July 31, 1916. George did not become a soldier; perhaps it was as a result of his unsuitability or due to him possibly being a slow learner.

Evidence of this can be found in a badly written letter to the authorities later in 1916, asking for his war badge and saying that he had tried to join but they wouldn't have him. Apparently, he was then pensioned off.

George continued to live with his parents and sister Mary, the family moving to Ynys Las, Porthcawl, after World War Two. George remained with Mary, following the deaths of their parents, until he died in December 1972. Mary died in 1997.

Tom, on the other hand, followed his sister Violet to Los Angeles, America, married again in 1938, became a naturalised American Citizen in 1945 and died in March 1967.

Morgan married Beatrice in December 1918 and emigrated to New Zealand, where he died in 1933.

On Saturday, May 4, the Porthcawl Lodge Discharged Sailors and Soldiers Federation organised a charity football match on the College Field (behind today's Seabank Hotel) between The 'Rest' Wounded Heroes XI and A Porthcawl XI. All proceeds were in aid of local prisoners of war, and £100 was raised.

One of those POWs was Private George Walton, 7th Battalion, Border Regiment, whose family lived at 11 Queen's Avenue, Porthcawl. Private Walton, who had enlisted in 1915, fought in many battles, including the Somme, before being wounded in the right thigh and taken prisoner at Arras, in April 1917.

He was taken, firstly, to Douai Hospital and then to Giessen Hospital. After convalescence he was employed as a labourer on a farm but in March 1918, he was sent to Giessen POW Camp where he remained until the Armistice.

On the cessation of hostilities, he was sent by train to Metz and thence through Calais to Dover, arriving home in December 1918. George was the first Porthcawl POW to return home.

Conversely, Judge and Mrs Rowlands, Newton, who had hoped since November 1917, that their son, 2nd Lieutenant Franklyn Theodore Rowland Rowlands was a prisoner of war, received a telegram early May 1918, informing them that he had been killed on November 21, 1917, and had been 'buried by the enemy.' (Porthcawl News May 9. 1918).

Ceri Joseph

New Road with the Post Office on the left.

Queen's Avenue in Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Lions get ready for boot sale

ON Saturday, Porthcawl Lions were in John Street with their book stall from 10am until 4pm – the Lions intend to hold their book sale on the first Saturday of the month throughout the summer.

On Sunday, members of the Porthcawl Lions took part in the Walk for Life, organised by the Porthcawl branch of KRUF and in doing so, raised funds for that worthy organisation.

Even busier days are approaching for the Porthcawl Lions with the start of the car boot season at Porthcawl Rugby ground on Sunday, May 6, starting at 8am and going on until 1pm. A modest charge of £6 per car is the same as last year.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, it is the big May Fayre at All Saints Church, starting at 11am until 4pm with stalls, games, entertainment and the now annual Teddy Bears Picnic.

Dogs are also invited to the dog show in the afternoon, organised by PAWS and there are prizes to be won.

Details of all the activities of the Lions are on their web page porthcawllions.org.

Clive Easterbrook, a co-founder of Bridgend Athletic RFC, dies

CLIVE EASTERBROOK, a stalwart of Bridgend Athletic RFC, died on April 27 at the Princess of Wales Bridgend Hospital. He was 81.

His funeral will take place at Coity Crematorium on Thursday, May 17 at 3.45pm, and at Clive's express wishes to his proud sons Steven and Kevin, his wake will be held at the Ewenny Road Headquarters of BARFC, the club Clive devoted 46 years of his life to.

Clive and his great pal, the late Jeff Jenkins, came on board BARFC around two months after the club was formed in 1972, mainly by Phil Rees and brothers Brian and David Lewis, as well as a Bridgend youth side that – following a March tour – wished to play senior rugby together.

The duo was approached to help organise the structure of the club, and in season 1972-73 the current Bridgend Athletic RFC was born.

Clive initially played for Tondu. Both Clive and Jeff had been recent players together at Ogmore Vale RFC; Clive was a no-nonsense hooker and Jeff a formidable lock.

They were made life members of Ogmore Vale RFC for their staunch efforts at the club offering their skills – Clive was an electrician, and Jeff a plasterer – in the refurbishment of the Ogmore Vale clubhouse. This was a feat they, along with others, repeated in gutting and refurbishing the existing BARFC clubhouse when the Ath bought it from the old WEXA club.

Clive was awarded BARFC Clubman of the Year in 1976, and again in 1981-82, for the huge voluntary time and effort he spent on the club refurbishment including rewiring the club, a trophy proudly on display at his home.

Clive Easterbrook in a photograph by Louvain Rees.

Clive and Jeff both achieved the distinction of becoming life members of two rugby clubs when the Athletic deservedly recognised their huge contributions to the club. When injured at Ogmore Vale, Clive passed an exam and took up rugby refereeing for a short period.

Clive became the first Athletic coach shortly after joining the Ath and its fixture secretary for many years.

He joined the formative Athletic committee along with chairman Jeff Jenkins, treasurer Phil Rees, secretary Mike Rennie, and Brian Lewis.

Clive chose the green and gold colours of the Springbok South African rugby team for the Athletic because even in those days he had great ambitions for the club.

Shortly afterwards, Clive became the Athletic representative on the Mid Glamorgan District, and for his long service and work with the organisation was awarded a plaque commemorating the life membership of the MGDRU he received in recognition of his commitment.

Clive and Jeff's experience, reliability, and straight talking proved a huge asset in launching the BARFC project in its formative years and well beyond.

Both were active at the Ath throughout their lifetimes, and they were two top men who not only talked the talk, but backed it up with actions.

Jeff was also involved with Bridgend, but Clive barely missed an Athletic game home or away and along with his friend – the current Ath's oldest supporter 90-year-old Glan Hitchens – was still attending games earlier this season, until his illness prevented him enjoying his passion for BARFC.

Clive's wife the late Beryl was also supportive of Clive assisting with players meals on match days, and on a former Ladies Committee at the Ath.

Clive will be missed, but not forgotten, at BARFC where his face appears in many earlier team photos on the walls of the club.

His legacy lives on as more than 300 players in 14 teams, 10 mini and juniors (founded 1991), two youth (founded 1975), and two senior teams turn out most weeks of the season in his chosen green and old colours.

A remarkable journey from a bunch of youth players who just wanted to stay together.

ADRIAN BURT

Hot stuff. Nicky Piper puts gloves on again and scores a knockout

COLWINSTON is a village well known for its close-knit community, having recently reached the semi finals for Channel 4's 'Britain's Best Village'.

However, it could soon be well known for its good food if a recent curry competition is anything to go by.

Residents decided to hold a 'Curry Off' to raise money for a new children's playground, and were delighted when the award-winning Cowbridge restaurant, The Shampan, decided to sponsor and judge the competition.

They sent top chef, Ashi Aravind and food consultant, Sue Tasher to choose the winners, and they were treated to 10 curries, featuring slow-cooked Welsh lamb with toasted spices and yoghurt, Indonesian fish curry, lamb korma, aubergine and home-made paneer curry served with twmpath wild garlic pakora, Mauritian chicken curry, butter chicken, and vegan aubergine curry.

Ashi was astounded with the quality of food: "It has taken me over and hour to decide upon the winners and I have tasted each curry at least three times.

"Every curry was well presented and tasted delicious. Some contestants went to the bother of wild foraging for fresh local ingredients, such as wild garlic and the quality of every one was very high."

Food consultant, Sue, said: "I have travelled all over India, so I know the different styles of cooking and I was impressed with the authenticity of the food presented here today."

In a very close competition, former champion boxer, Nicky Piper, was chosen as the winner with his lamb korma.

His prize will be to have his recipe on the menu of The Shampan restaurant – so if you are interested, pop along soon. Second place went to Lynne Flux with her Indonesian fish curry, and third place went to Katherine Theron with a vegan aubergine curry.

The winners were announced at an evening Curry & Quiz where all curries were eaten by 80 villagers and more than £800 was raised for the new village playground.

AS

Judge Ashi Aravind and winner, Nicky Piper.

Judge Ashi Aravind judges curries.

COUNCIL FELLS TREE THAT WAS A DANGER TO CIVIC OFFICES

A TREE across the road from the civic offices in Bridgend has been chopped down after it was found to be diseased.

The large tulip tree in Angel Street did not bloom this year and has been felled due to safety concerns.

Speaking at a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) meeting on April 25, cabinet member for communities Richard Young said: "An assessment confirmed that the tree is diseased and must be felled in the interests of safety.

"The tree, which is very tall and probably around 50-years-old, is suffering from extensive decay possibly as a result of the honey fungus pathogen .

"Given its location above the road we have no choice but to remove it as a matter of urgency."

Three new trees have been planted next to the tulip tree as part of ongoing work to create cycle lanes in the town.

The scene before...

... and after.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Cameras, and a speed limit cut, for A48

A NEW 50mph speed limit is to be installed on a stretch of the A48 after a number of accidents along the route.

The speed limit – between Ewenny and Broadlands roundabouts – will replace the current 60mph limit and average speed cameras will be set up to enforce it.

New signage, pedestrian refuges and resurfaced footpaths will also form part of the road improvements, along with extended footway links and new road markings.

It comes after a teenager died when he was in collision with a motorbike in July 2016.

Sixteen-year-old Rhys Rubery was crossing with a group of friends on the section of road where the speed limit is currently 60mph.

The inquest into his death heard the oncoming motorbike was masked by a car and Rhys would not have seen it.

Speaking at a council meeting on April 25, cabinet member for communities Richard Young said: "Our funding bid from Welsh Government for a full range of road safety improvements along the A48 between Broadlands and Waterton roundabouts has been successful.

"This follows preparatory work which was carried out along the 5km route late last year.

"The plans are in line with recommendations from an independent report which the council commissioned following a number of accidents along the route including the circumstances in which Rhys Rubery lost his life.

"I'd like to thank colleagues in Welsh Government for listening to us on this issue."

The council-commissioned report found that between 2011 and 2015 there were 32 collisions along the A48 between Laleston and Waterton although most were minor and involved rear-end shunts between vehicles.

Three of the collisions were fatal, seven were classed as 'serious' and 22 as 'slight'.

LDR

Doris enjoyes her centenary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She married her husband Dilwyn Evans in 1938 and the couple moved to Port Talbot to be closer to Dilwyn's work as a railway signalman. The couple had their only daughter, Eira in 1940.

In 1966, the family moved to Nottage near Porthcawl and Doris continued to work at the cafe with her sister. She later worked at a bakers and a jewellery factory before retiring at the age of 65 in 1983.

Dilwyn died in 1984 and Doris continued to live in their bungalow in Nottage before moving into Morgana Lodge in 2017.

She was joined at the family party by her niece Barbara, great niece Laura and great nephew Alex, who flew in from New York for the landmark birthday celebrations.

Doris's daughter Eira said: "I had a very happy life and one of my fondest memories was travelling around the UK by train with my parents. My father worked for the Great Western Railway which meant that we could travel free and we would just pick a new destination to visit when we arrived at the train station.

"At Morgana Lodge they have a little room which replicates an old fashioned train compartment and shows footage of a real train journey on the TV screen, so Mum was happy and relaxed and we both felt like we were transported back in time. This is one of her favourite features about the care home.

"Mum was excited to be reunited with her niece, Barbara, who had moved to America many years ago and it was also a special moment for us all to meet Barbara's children Alex and Laura for the first time. You could say that Mum brought the whole family back together on this special day."

Jane Hopkins, activities co-ordinator for Morgana Court said: "We were so excited to plan this fabulous day for Doris to enjoy with her family.

"She may be 100 years old, but that didn't stop her from singing along as the harpist played some of her favourite songs."

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Avengers: Infinity War is '...a truly exceptional triumph of a film'

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

NOT since *The Force Awakens* has there been a film with so much hype and expectation than *Avengers: Infinity War*. Ever since *Iron Man* broke through in 2008, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been a dominant cinematic force, and, since 2012's *The Avengers*, has been heading for a battle between our heroes and the Mad Titan himself, Thanos.

That time is now at hand in *Avengers: Infinity War*, as Thanos (Josh Brolin) finally makes his move to claim the Infinity Stones which will allow him to control the universe and wipe out half of humanity. But seemingly every Marvel hero we've met so far has designs on stopping him, and the likes of Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), amongst others, must unite against the biggest threat the world, and indeed universe, has ever seen...

The undertaking of *Avengers: Infinity War* is an epic one – a film that must thread together an untold number of plot strands, make them a cohesive whole and deliver the thrills and spectacle that we've been accustomed to ever since Robert Downey blasted out of that cave 10 years ago.

If directors the Russo brothers proved with *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and sequel *Civil War* that they're a pretty good fit at melding all these elements together, then *Infinity War* is possibly their biggest accomplishment yet – to deliver such an engaging, exciting, emotional blockbuster that doesn't leave you feeling shortchanged in any way is a rare feat indeed.

Suffice to say, *Infinity War* feels like a film a decade in the making; this is the beginning of the end of the first huge chapter of the MCU, and as such the stakes have never been higher.

One of the criticisms levelled at the films has been the indestructible nature of the heroes and the blandness of the villains. We would be venturing into spoiler territory to talk about the former, but the villain subject isn't one that needs to be skirted over – for all the talk and hype about Thanos being the ultimate 'big bad', the villain to end all villains, he more than lives up to the part.

Essayed (flawlessly) through motion capture by Josh Brolin, he is a substantial villain, intent on causing death and destruction but with the reasoning to back it up. Marvel have upped their villain game in their last few films and Thanos is without doubt the most dastardly and ruthless one yet.

Of course, every villain needs a hero and there's plenty to choose from here, with nearly every single hero from the Marvel roster thus far ready to tangle with Thanos and his horde. It says much for the Russos, and scriptwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, that each character has a purpose and has something to get their teeth stuck into. Of course, some are more prominent than others but none feel superfluous and shoehorned in.

It's the bigger names that get the biggest weight to pull – Robert Downey Jr's journey from cocksure hero to man on the brink has been played out superbly well and Tony Stark is a vital as ever, while Chris Hemsworth's Thor renaissance continues in what may very well be his best outing as the Norse god yet.

But there is also light relief from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, with Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana and Karen Gillan all superb, while Tom Holland's Spider-Man continues to go from strength to strength and Benedict Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange looks like he's always been there.

There's nary a bone to pick in terms of the performances with some really emotional moments for the characters to deliver, and proof that playing the long game gives the greatest rewards. We feel the peril and troubles of these characters far more deeply as they've been around for so long and we, as an audience, are so invested in them.

In terms of direction, the Russos have done a marvellous job. At 150 minutes, the film zips by, lean and mean with no fat on its bones, and it even manages to avoid that most common of pitfalls, the second act sag. Visually there is no scrimping on scale and the action beats have a fizz and dynamism that is enthralling.

The fact that we have another *Avengers* film coming next year means that film may feel a little open-ended for some, but even then it feels self-contained, delivers everything you would want and, incredibly, throws some curveballs that will leave you stunned.

It's a sublime film, a piece of work that delivers in all areas. *Avengers: Infinity War* is a roller-coaster that leaves you exhausted come the end credits (or just past the end credits, if you catch my drift) – a truly exceptional triumph of a film.

VERDICT: Marvel at its biggest, its boldest and (quite possibly) its best, *Avengers: Infinity War* is a sweeping, dramatic, action-packed spectacle of a film, capable of delivering gag after gut punch after high-octane action sequence. The Russo brothers excel themselves with a thoroughly engaging and thrilling piece of work that begins to reshape the fabric of the MCU. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Avengers* (2012), *Captain America: Civil War* (2016).

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Wednesday, May 9 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the information office at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on May 9 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Town Hall car park, Llantwit Major.

On Monday, May 14 at 11am 'Spring lambs and coastal views' starting at Dinas Powys Common, opposite Twyncyn CF64 4DT.

On Wednesday, May 16 at 10.30am, the Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Bridge Cafe car park, Cold Knap.

Also on May 16 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain.

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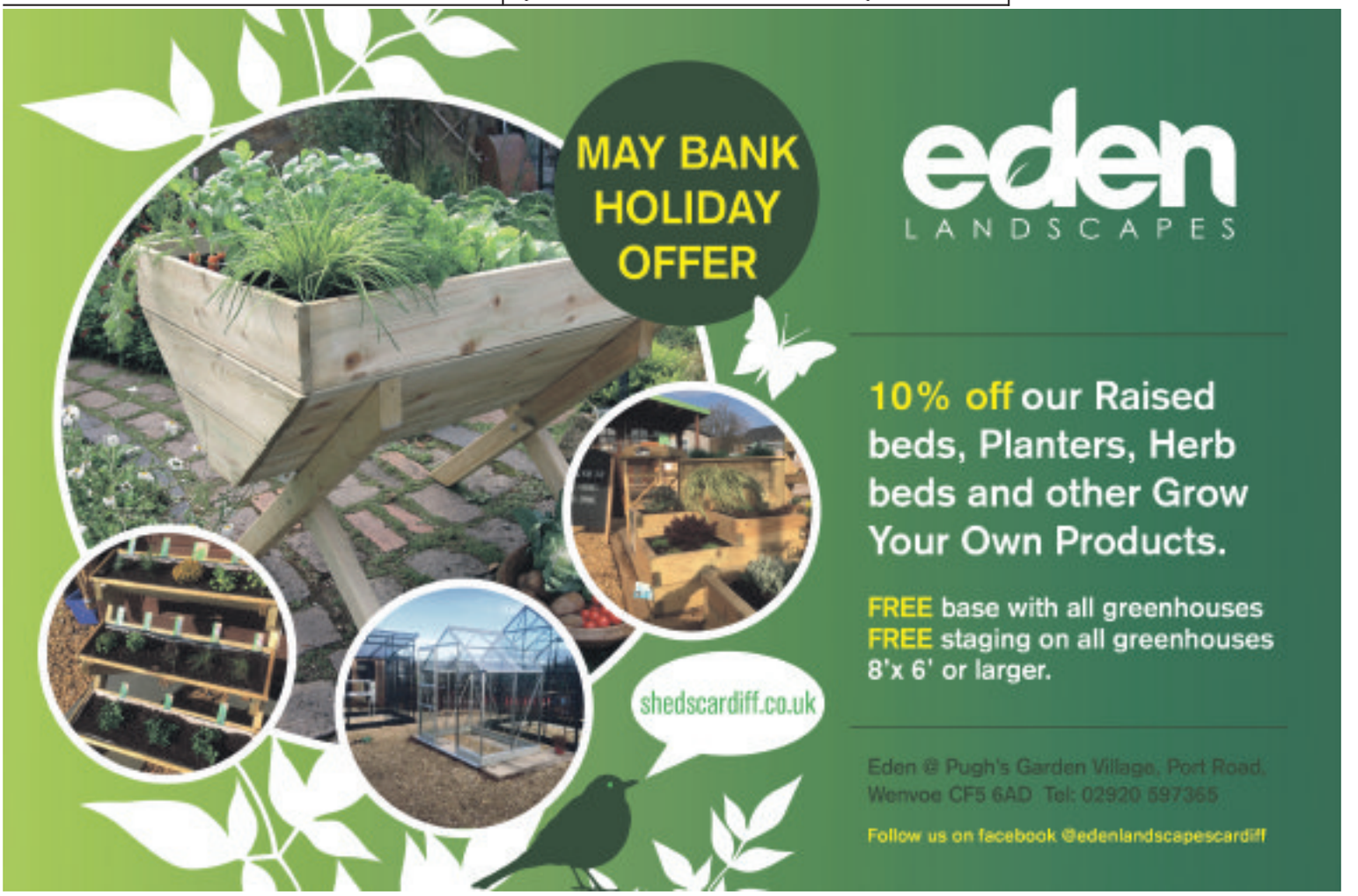

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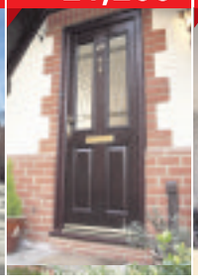

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Local solicitors in final of UK business awards

NEWBOLD SOLICITORS will be attending the UK finals of the Small Businesses Awards in London this week, representing Wales in the national finals.

Having won the Welsh heat, they are proud to be representing Wales against the area finalists for the UK.The awards will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Westminster.

Catherine Hartland said: "I am really pleased for all the staff here at Newbold Solicitors, everyone has worked so hard to make the firm what it is today in very challenging times. I am also very pleased that a business in the Vale has been put on a national platform.

"There are over 160,000 members of the Federation, so to be the Welsh winners is a massive achievement for us. We would love to win the national final, but there are so many other deserving businesses who have achieved incredible success, that we will not be too disappointed if we are not the national winners."

Newbold Solicitors employ almost 70 staff in their four offices. They have been nominated for 12 national awards in their seven years of trading.

It has also recently been announced that they have been shortlisted again for 'Property Law Firm of the Year' this year – exciting times for Newbold Solicitors and for local businesses.

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National property sales fall-through rate reaches record high

THE latest data and analysis from independent home buyer, Quick Move Now, has revealed that the number of house sales falling through before completion is on the rise, with 38.8 per cent of sales falling through in the first quarter of 2018.

Local property specialist Mark Jennings said: "In reality, it is not difficult to see why so many sales fall through, with the main reasons cited being buyers not able to arrange finance, buyers and sellers re-negotiating the price prior to exchange of contracts, surveys revealing structural defects with the property and the slow process from offer to completion."

How do you avoid your purchase or sale falling through? The key is ensuring both buyers and sellers receive great service, prior to an offer being accepted and after.

The sad fact is that, once the offer is accepted, too many buyers and sellers are left to do the hard work themselves, chasing agents, mortgage brokers and conveyancers to keep the process moving.

With the above in mind, sellers should be sure to pick an agent who will not over promise and under deliver. For buyers, great service from a mortgage broker, conveyancer and surveyor is a key part of the process.

Buying or selling property really shouldn't be as difficult and stressful as it often is and if you have the right people acting for you, it won't be.

If you are looking at buying or selling a property in the near future and would benefit from some independent advice, feel free to call Mark Jennings Property Consultants on 01446 311845.

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VALE RESTAURANTS PICK UP TOP AWARDS

RIGHT: South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies meets Chloe Francis of Cobbles Kitchen & Deli which has have recently been awarded the title of Welsh Restaurant of the Year.

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has congratulated the Vale of Glamorgan restaurants recognised at the Food Awards Wales 2018.

The awards, held on April 23 at the Exchange Hotel, Cardiff, are given to restaurants and cafes chosen by the public as the best in their field.

Cobbles Kitchen & Deli based in Ogmore-by-Sea picked up the gong for Welsh restaurant of the year.

Mr Davies recently visited Cobbles to meet owner Chloe Francis and to see her exciting plans to expand the business.

Penarth-based Michelin-starred James Sommerin was recognised twice as both Chef of the Year and Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year.

Another Penarth business, The Crepe Escape, picked up the award for Dessert Outlet of the Year.

Mr Davies praised all three for their work putting the Vale on the map and said they were "huge assets to the area".

Mr Davies said: "The food industry is key to the economy in the Vale and it brings a huge boost when local businesses do well.

"I recently visited Cobbles and they are going from strength to strength; Chloe's enthusiasm and ambition to improve is admirable. She fully deserves the accolade of restaurant of the year.

"James's record and CV speaks for itself and he has done a huge amount for Penarth. It's frankly no surprise to see him pick up Chef of the Year and Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year and I'm delighted for him.

"The Crepe Escape offers something different – and shows we do puddings as well as mains! All three courses are definitely on offer in the Vale.

"Cobbles, Restaurant James Sommerin and The Crepe Escape put the Vale on the map and we're very lucky to have them."

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The end of the 'coastal line' – 50 years ago

AT 11.44pm on May 4, 1968, a small group of railway enthusiasts gathered at Penarth railway station to bid farewell to the last train to depart for Barry via the 'coastal route,' this time only calling at Sully by request.

Earlier in the day the single car 'bubble' unit made regular calls to the other stations on the line; Alberta Place Halt, passing the long closed Lower Penarth station/halt before arriving at Lavernock.

It travelled onwards through the large cutting to Swanbridge and Sully and then to Cadoxton, where the service ended – too late for the connection on to Barry (which might explain how scarce a commodity passengers were on this stretch of line).

The line was opened in stages from 1887 to 1888 terminating at a remote 'station' at Biglis which was located near some fields until the following year, when agreement was reached with the fierce rival railway company, the Barry Railway, to allow trains to enter Cadoxton railway station – but no further. So the line became known as the 'Cadoxton branch' of the Taff Vale Railway.

So why was the line built at all?

Under the title of the Cardiff, Penarth and Barry Junction Railway, it was intended to halt the expansion of Barry Dock from one large dock to a further number two dock. The plans originally were for the new line to cross the site of the second dock, so preventing it from being built.

For the CPBR, read the Taff Vale Railway, which was still reeling from the opening of Barry No 1 dock, sucking millions of tons of coal traffic down the Barry line.

It was funded by coal owners and the like spearheaded by David Davies of Llandinam, to the detriment of the TVR's dock at Penarth.

Needless to say, the plan was thrown out by Parliament and the TVR ended up with a piece of useless railway on their hands. If that was not bad enough, by getting access to Cadoxton, the Barry Railway in turn had the right to join the Taff line at Cogan Junction, having direct access to Cardiff.

The Cadoxton branch settled down to a life of rural bliss. Lavernock station catered for a local population of less than 60 and Sully had less than 300 residents. Lower Penarth station served the Glamorganshire Golf Club. Both Sully and Lavernock had the luxury of a signal box and a petit goods yard for agricultural needs and a wagon of coal now and then.

At Biglis, the TVR constructed a small goods depot – there were two brickworks nearby. In an effort to increase passenger traffic, two motor platforms were added.

A 'motor car' in railway terms was a tiny steam locomotive bolted to a passenger carriage – the forerunner of today's diesel multiple unit – one between Lower Penarth and Penarth town station at Alberta Place to serve the cliff walk and local well-to-do residents and between Lavernock and Sully, a halt at Swanbridge.

The height of the line's success was in the early 1920s when the 'Ports to Ports' express from Newcastle to Barry, and later Swansea (for seafarers to change ports for new employment), was for some reason diverted via Penarth, despite stiff gradients of 1 in 40 to Penarth Town and 1 in 45 to Lower Penarth.

Possibly the very tight curve at Cogan may have been a consideration – or maybe Penarth Docks itself.

In later years, both Sully and Lavernock were provided with camping coaches, but the bread and butter, passenger-wise, was the summer season, when thousands flocked via the train to the sedate coastal beaches of Lavernock, Sully and Swanbridge.

Excursion trains came from all over the valleys, sometimes with as many as a dozen coaches. The regular service was remarkable too, with up to 20 trains per day.

A further boost to the railway was the opening of the Penarth Cement Works and its next-door neighbour, the Penarth Concrete Works.

The goods yard at Biglis faded away, but after 'grouping', when the Taff Vale and Barry Railways became part of the Great Western Railway, at last the Cadoxton trains could now proceed to Barry and beyond.

Rationalisation began with the closure of Lower Penarth station in 1954 after already being reduced to the status of a halt in the 1930s.

The arrival of diesel multiple units in 1958 was a bonus and the special reduced day tickets to the line from all over south Wales continued to be promoted.

The Penarth–Cadoxton branch had even been overlooked in the 'Reshaping of British Railways' programme (better known as the Beeching Report), but the writing was on the wall.

As a part of the rationalisation of track layout between Cardiff and Penarth (the Penarth Town line was singled) while the line to Sully remained double track, also the line was split at Penarth Town so isolating the Cadoxton line – no trains could now go via Penarth to Barry.

A single-coach bubble car replaced the three to six DMUs, and bus companies had a bus stop next to every station on the line. The inevitable 'Notice of Withdrawal of Railway Passenger Services' poster was duly posted in 1967. Objections ensued and the line remained open for a further 12 months, but after public enquiry, the closure plans were upheld on the grounds that there were more than adequate bus replacement services.

On May 4, 1968, the last train with 17 passengers on board left that night for the last time, the red rear light disappearing into the darkness, ironically at the beginning of the summer timetable – the time of year the railway may have paid its way.

Attempts to restore the railway to Lower Penarth many years later were thwarted by local objections. One wonders whether in the light of the proposed major housing developments, that this curious railway might today have been a godsend to the residents of Sully around the coast to Penarth as a fast transit service to Cardiff. I would welcome comments on this.

Brian Keitch

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE

Neil Diamond tribute evening

A CHARITY fundraising Neil Diamond tribute event on behalf of the Marie Curie charity takes place on Friday, May 11 at Tondu Railway club; doors open 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) from Tondu Railway club on 01656 720005; Maureen on 01656 723512 or Helen on 01656 660391. Funds raised will go towards helping all patients in Bridgend county.

Outdoor church service

THE United Christian Churches Pencoed are holding their annual outdoor Pentecostal Service on the green opposite Pencoed monument (CF35 5PE) on Sunday, May 20 at 2.30pm, weather permitting.

If the weather is unsuitable, the service will be in Pencoed Miners Welfare Hall, Heol-Y-Groes, Pencoed. Refreshments will be served following the service; everyone welcome.

South Wales Classic Car Club to mark their 35th anniversary

IN 1983, a small group of about a dozen classic car enthusiasts got together to form what is now the South Wales Classic Car Club, and is this year marking its 35th anniversary.

The first annual show was held in 1986 at the Dow Corning Social Club in Barry, and later moved to the South Wales Constabulary Social Club in Waterton, Bridgend, where it remained until the closure of that facility some years later.

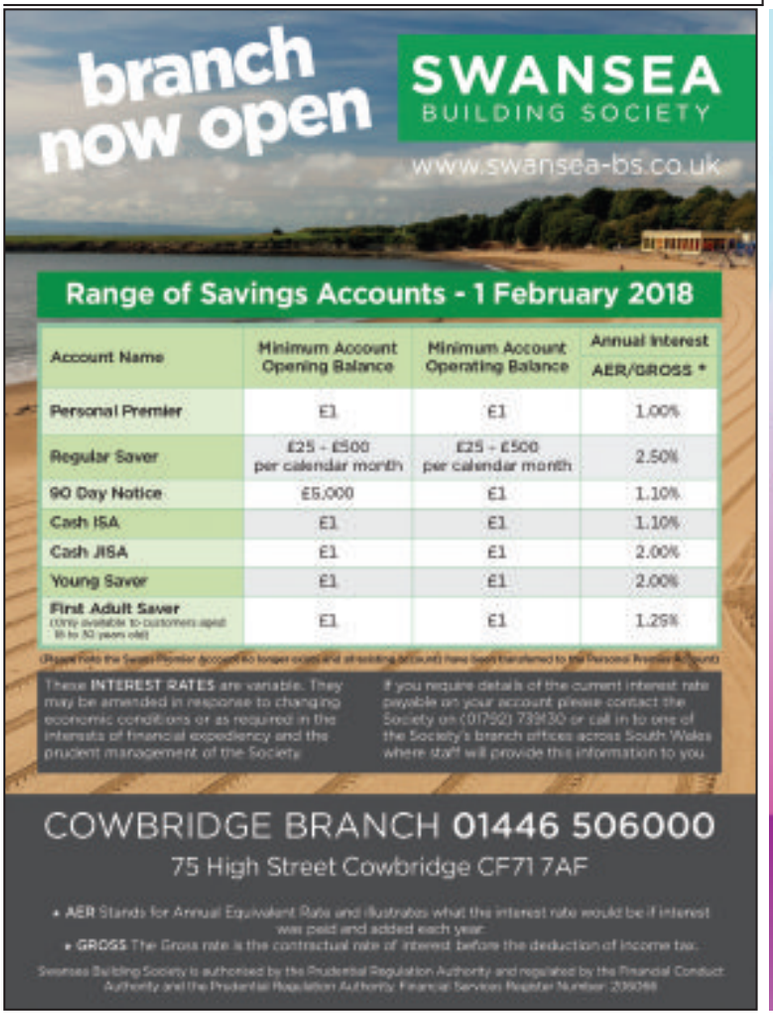
A subsequent move to the former agricultural college in Pencoed allowed the show to continue to flourish on an annual basis until the weather intervened in 2014. It resulted in a further move from 2015 onwards to the car park of Cardiff City Stadium in Leckwith Road, Cardiff.The show is now in its fourth year at this venue and will hopefully continue to improve with age.

It is staged by members of the club, now numbering some 100 or so active members (although many have come and gone over the years) on an entirely voluntary basis.

Any profits from the show are distributed amongst various local charities, to which the club is pleased to have donated many thousands of pounds over the years.

The club is always open to new members and further information regarding new membership, exhibiting at the show, or charitable donations, can be found on the website at swccc.net.

Alternatively, we meet at Pontyclun Athletic Club, Castan Road, Pontyclun, on the first Thursday of every month, at which we will be pleased to welcome potential new members and visitors alike.



Ducks on the move to raise cash for church

MEMBERS of Barry Uniting Church, based at the 'portacabin' between the Waterfront Medical Centre and Poundstretcher Extra, have launched an exciting fundraising campaign to boost funds for the development of their new permanent community centre and church building.

Members of Barry Uniting Church with their ducks

The 'Bridge Between' will be located alongside the footpath linking the retail park to Heol y Llongau on Barry Waterfront. Building is anticipated to start in spring 2019.

The 'Great International Barry Duck Race' is a sponsored event that will run over the summer and 300 plastic ducks have been donated to the campaign.

The ducks are available for a suggested donation of £5 from the centre. Entrants are invited to take photographs of their ducks in places far and wide, beginning with the 26 letters of the alphabet and should obtain at least four sponsors to support their efforts. Prizes will be awarded for the greatest distances travelled from the centre.

Details of the competition are provided on the church's Facebook page 'Barry Waterfront Centre'. The Community Garden at the centre will be open on Saturday, May 5 from 10am until 1pm when ducks will be available for collection and plans of the new centre are on display.

Refreshments will be served during the morning and the building is also open for teas and coffees every Thursday morning from 10am until 12 noon.

AS

GVS offers its support

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) provides a wealth of support to community groups and people who would like to volunteer.

GVS supports community groups through: Low cost high quality printing and design; assisting with the recruitment of volunteers; free advice and guidance to help identify and bid for grants.

They also assist trustees to run groups efficiently and legally; help set up new groups, develop governing documents, provide support with registering as a charity and develop policies and procedures.

Free and low cost training, networks and events and free equipment loan and promotion.

GVS can also support individuals by finding the right volunteering position for them from the 500 opportunities on offer.

If you would like to benefit from our help, contact Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) on 01446 741706, e-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales, or see www.gvs.wales.

BM

Busy times for Highlight Park WI

HIGHLIGHT Park WI gathered on the first Tuesday of the month for a fun meeting with a quiz.

The AGM was held on April 18 with a good attendance. Carol Atkinson was introduced as the federation advisor who had come to oversee the proceedings. She emphasised how important it is to discuss problems before they get too complicated.

A letter of thanks had been received from Jane Dixon, head of the Denman Appeal. This was for Highlight WI's contribution to improvements needed to keep the Denman buildings up to scratch and provide good accommodation for its many visitors who enjoy time away.

A grand total of £712 was raised by holding a combined tea party at Highlight Park, hosted by local WIs in the area.

June Davies read out the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted. Resolutions were discussed and one item was overwhelmingly popular, with the highest results going to mental health.

Pam Aldridge read the financial statement for 2017 and Pam Ralphs then itemised all the events, fundraisers, days out, meals out and evenings in with varied speakers – a full year! Besides the monthly meetings, a theatre group and lunch dates were added to regular activities.

Barbara Bowring's report promised support for the three local charities that will benefit. She had great hopes for the coming year and thanked all the members for their hard work.

A visit to the Memo was arranged by Sue Wade to *Beyond the Barricade*, a tribute to the top shows of London theatre.

A bus load of eager ladies gathered on April 27 for an awayday to Tredegar Park and Garden Centre and had a very enjoyable visit.

DB

What's in your bin?

Tel: 01446 700111

email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Waste Less and Recycle more!

Please note the changes to your waste and recycling collection days this May Bank Holiday.

Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Monday 7th May	**Tuesday 8th May**
Tuesday 8th May	**Wednesday 9th May**
Wednesday 9th May	**Thursday 10th May**
Thursday 10th May	**Friday 11th May**
Friday 11th May	**Saturday 12th May**

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the Council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates.
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

CHANGES TO RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Council would like to hear your views on proposed changes to recycling and waste collections, the current waste and recycling model operated by the Council is not sustainable long-term.

Visit our website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit us at one of our roadshows below to take the survey so we can hear your views.

Date	Time	Location
Friday 4th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Penarth Pier
Tuesday 8th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Barry Island
Friday 11th May	8:00am – 12:00pm	St Athan Village Community Centre
Saturday 12th May	9:00am – 12:00pm	Morrisons Car Park, Barry
Tuesday 15th May	4:30pm – 7:30pm	St Brides Major Primary School
Wednesday 16th May	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Thursday 17th May	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Murch Community Centre, Dinas Powys
Saturday 19th May	9:00am – 12:00pm	Room 1, Kymin, Penarth
Sunday 20th May	6:30am – 2:00pm	Sully Car Boot Sale
Thursday 24th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Penarth Town Centre
Tuesday 29th May	9:00am – 2:00pm	Barry King Square Flying Start Fun Day

Beth sydd yn eich bin?

Ffôn: 01446 700111

e-bost: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gwastraffu Llai ac Ailgylchu mwy!

Nodwch y newidiadau i'ch diwrnodau casglu gwastraff ac ailgylchu dros Ŵyl y Banc mis Mai.

Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Dydd Llun 7 Mai	**Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai**
Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai	**Dydd Mercher 9 Mai**
Dydd Mercher 9 Mai	**Dydd Iau 10 Mai**
Dydd Iau 10 Mai	**Dydd Gwener 11 Mai**
Dydd Gwener 11 Mai	**Dydd Sadwrn 12 Mai**

Mae'r calendrau Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu ar-lein ar wefan y Cyngor wedi'u diwygio i adlewyrchu'r dyddiadau casglu newydd hyn.
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

NEWIDIADAU I GASGLIADAU AILGYLCHU A GWASTRAFF

Dymuna'r Cyngor glywed eich barn ar newidiadau arfaethedig i ailgylchu a chasgliadau gwastraff, nid yw'r system wastraff bresennol a'r model ailgylchu a weithredir gan y Cyngor yn gynaliadwy yn yr hir dymor.

Ewch i'n gwefan www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk neu ewch i un o'n sioeau teithiol isod i gwblhau'r arolwg er mwyn i ni glywed eich safbwyntiau.

Dyddiad	Amser	Lleoliad
Dydd Gwener 4 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Pier Penarth
Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Ynys y Barri
Dydd Gwener 11 Mai	8:00am – 12:00pm	Canolfan Cymunedol Pentref Sain Tathan
Dydd Sadwrn 12 Mai	9:00am – 12:00pm	Maes Parcio Morrissons, y Barri
Dydd Mawrth 15 Mai	4:30pm – 7:30pm	Ysgol Gynradd Saint-y-Brid
Dydd Mercher 16 Mai	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Ham Lane East, Llanilltud Fawr
Dydd Iau 17 Mai	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Canolfan Cymunedol Murch, Dinas Powys
Dydd Sadwrn 19 Mai	9:00am – 12:00pm	Ystafell 1, Y Cymin, Penarth
Dydd Sul 20 Mai	6:30am – 2:00pm	Sêl Cist Car, Sili
Dydd Iau 24 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Canol Tref Penarth
Dydd Mawrth 29 Mai	9:00am – 2:00pm	Sgwâr y Brenin, y Barri – Diwrnod Hwyl Dechrau'n Deg

CAUTION ADVISED BY ABLEWORLD

WE have recently received reports of people posing as staff from Ableworld and cold calling customers to arrange home visits.

Ableworld would like to reassure you that we DO NOT cold call our customers.

If you arrange for Ableworld to visit you within the home for a demonstration or delivery of an item, please ensure you always ask for identification. We don't mind, as we would prefer you are safe and happy in your own home.

For any person who calls you or you invite to your home – always follow these simple steps:

• Don't ever accept anyone into your home if you have not invited them;

• Arrange for a friend or relative to be with you for your pre-arranged home visit for your peace of mind;

• If you are unsure if the visitor is genuine, ask them to wait while you call the company to double check;

• Ask the cold caller for their telephone number so if you do have reason to doubt them, you have a number to give to the police.

Should you be concerned, please call your local Ableworld store at Bridgend Shopping Centre, Brackla Street, Bridgend, CF31 1DD on 01656 856696 or 4 Penarth Retail Park, Penarth Road, Cardiff, CF11 8EF. Tel: 02921 321072 or see www.ableworld.co.uk for more details.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, May 3, there will be a charcoal demonstration by Cheltenham artist Sheila Bryant one of the best demonstrators of this medium who has visited the society in recent years.

On Thursday, May 10,the annual calendar completion takes place when pictures for inclusion in the 2019 CAS calendar will be selected.

The society welcomes artists of any level, and also non artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on art topics. The group meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's programme and activities, collect a programme from the Old Hall, or see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas

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Offers available on 5th,6th & 7th May 2018

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND DEALS

Cadbury Dairy Milk

Now £1 per 110g bar

was £1.59 per 110g bar

Carlsberg 18x440ml

Now £12.99 per 18pk!

was £17.99 per 18pk

Bedding Plants £2.99 (9 plug)

Potting & Hanging Basket Plants £1.99 or 3 for £5

Grow Bags & Compost

Multi-Purpose Compost 50L £3.99 or 3 for £10

Grow Bags 10L £1.89 or 2 for £3

Coke Zero 15pk x 330ml

Diet Coke 15pk x 330ml

Coca-Cola 12pk x 330ml

Now £4.99 per 15pk!

was £6.15 per 12/15pk

Andrex Skin Kind 12 Roll Pack

Now £4.99 per 12 roll pack

was £5.99 per 12 roll pack

Taibach - Llantwit Major - Cowbridge - Caerau - North Cornelly - Sarn - Talbot Green - Bryntirion - Maesteg

The cheque will go towards the Recliner Chairs Fund at Llandough Hospital.

Vale People First group raises funds in memory of former member

DANIELLE BRIDGES and Kelly Anne Rideout from Vale People First Active Communities Real Lives Group recently presented a £100 cheque they raised to launch 'The Recliner Chairs Fund' in support of the Haematology and Chemotherapy Unit at Llandough Hospital.

The fund was set up in memory of Jill Mallett, a much-loved member of Salem Baptist Church, Barry, who was a great supporter of the Vale People First Real Lives Group.

On Easter day, the Real Lives Group Choir sang during the morning service, and presented the funds raised to Salem Church treasurer, Gwyneth Cox.

Samaritans welcomes plans to improve the mental health of young people

A NEW report released by an Assembly committee on support for children and young people's mental health has been welcomed by Samaritans Cymru.

The inquiry was launched by the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Samaritans Cymru provided the committee with evidence during the inquiry, on their ongoing calls for compulsory emotional health lessons in schools and the wider benefits of improving resilience in young people.

Within their evidence, Samaritans also highlighted that young people are a high-risk group for mental illness and suicide, and in Wales, there has been a significant rise in factors such as self harm and admissions to A&E which can contribute to suicidal ideas or intent in adolescents.

Samaritans have developed a free teaching resource called DEAL (Developing Emotional Awareness and Listening) which aims to help develop resilience in young people.

In 2016/17, Samaritans in Wales worked with five pilot schools in Cardiff to implement the resource into their curriculum for one academic year.

Following the DEAL pilot, in which Cardiff schools delivered Samaritans lesson plans for one academic year, teacher Laura-Cerys Williams, of Fitzalan High School, said: "Pupils enjoyed the sessions due to their interactivity and staff found the sessions very easy to deliver.

"Following the pilot, the students have a better awareness of mental health. We are planning on continuing to use some of the resources in our year 7, 8 and 9 lessons."

Among the recommendations of the report, the Committee recommended that Welsh Government undertake a review of the various emotional and mental health programmes in schools, in order to put forward a national approach for schools to adopt.

While undertaking this review, the committee has recommended that Welsh Government work with Samaritans to develop its DEAL programme for wider use in schools in Wales.

Sarah Stone, executive director for Samaritans in Wales said: "We are pleased to welcome the recommendations of this report and are encouraged to see the call for a review of current emotional health provision to recommend a national approach for all schools.

"Emotional health programmes in schools should be viewed as a form of prevention and early intervention which could reduce pressure on CAMHS and reduce specific mental health problems."

Significantly, the committee has also recommended that Welsh Government issue guidance to schools on talking about suicide and self-harm, to dispel the myth that talking about it may increase the risk.

They've also called on Welsh Government to ensure that basic mental health training, including how to talk about suicide, becomes part of initial teacher training and continuous professional development, so that all teachers are more confident to talk about it.

Sarah Stone said: "The call for basic mental health training in Initial Teaching Training is of crucial importance; we must continue to highlight that talking about self harm and suicide does not increase the risk – it reduces it.

"Talking about mental health and reducing stigma is one of the most significant barriers we must overcome in order to improve emotional health in young people."

Boötes is one for the skywatchers

URSA Major is still overhead. If we look at the end star in its 'handle' and draw an imaginary curved line in the direction of the south eastern horizon, we will locate the constellation of Boötes.

Its brightest star is called Arcturus, which is one of the brightest stars in the sky. It will look orange in colour and binoculars will enhance the hue. It lies about 40 light years away and is over 100 times as luminous as our Sun.

To the left of Boötes is the small constellation of *Corona Borealis*, the Northern Crown. It is fair to say most of the constellations look nothing like their names, but Corona really does look like a crown, with the six brightest stars arranged in a semi-circle. Under dark skies it is worth counting with the naked eye how many stars can be seen within the bowl shape.

Now use a pair of binoculars and count again. It contains two very interesting stars, one within the semi-circle is called *R Corona Borealis*.

A very old carbon star, it is sometimes visible with the naked eye or binoculars, but other times it requires a telescope to see. The reason for the changes is due to at irregular intervals, it blows off its surface a dense shell of carbon particles and this tends to dim the starlight. After a period of several weeks, or sometimes years, the cloud of material thins out and we see the star once more.

Another strange star lies to one side of the crown and requires a large telescope to see. Known as *T Corona Borealis*, it remains vary faint. However, on two occasions in 1866 and again in 1946, it became visible to the naked eye, hence, its nickname, the 'Blaze Star'. It is always worth keeping an eye on this one, because we don't know when, or if, it will repeat the outburst.

Carry on the imaginary curved line from the end star in the handle of Ursa Major, through Arcturus, towards the southern horizon, this will bring you to the constellation of Virgo, marked by the star Spica. If you thought Arcturus was powerful, just remember Spica is about 2,000 times as luminous as our Sun and lies around 200 light years from us.

Its colour is also much different to Arcturus, Spica and looks blue-white. Virgo is famous because it has many faint galaxies in this area of sky, but a large telescope is required to see them.

Watch out for mighty Jupiter. It lies towards the southern horizon below and to the left of Spica. Wait until around midnight for the best views. The Moon lies close to it on May 27. Even in binoculars, Jupiter will show itself as non-stellar and also reveal the four bright moons, Callisto, Ganymede, Io, and Europa. The Moon acts as a guide to Spica, because it lies above it on 25th.

Do keep an eye on the Barry Astronomical Society website www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for dates when the group will meet at Porthkerry Park (weather permitting) to observe the night sky.

DAVE POWELL

Prince's Countryside Fund grants available

THE Prince's Countryside Fund grants are now available to support community led groups and projects in rural areas around the UK.

Applications opened on April 30 for community groups and charities to apply for grant funding of up to £50,000 from The Prince's Countryside Fund.

The closing date for applications is June 14.

Claire Saunders, Director of the Fund said: "This is a critical time for people and businesses in our rural areas, and we are seeking applicants for our grant programme who can help to ensure that their rural communities can thrive now and in the future.

"We want to hear from innovative and creative community led projects that are responding to local needs and would urge people to consider applying. Whether this is bringing new life to your village shop and pub, increasing access to rural employment and training, or bringing together farming communities, we would love to hear from you."

Funding is also available for projects that will improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses, for example by providing training or education schemes.

The Fund's grant giving helps to support a diverse range of projects, often delivered locally by grassroots organisations and community groups, and since the Fund was set up by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010 it has distributed more than £9 million to communities across the UK.

Find out more and read the full eligibility and guidance document at www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants, or contact Helen Aldis on 0207 5666659, or Helen.Aldis@bitc.org.uk.

FG

Do you have a story? Then get in touch with us.
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
01446 774484

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00402/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed conversion and loft conversion to existing property to form 2 self contained dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad:	33, Station Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00463/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Re-thatch main roof which has reached its end of life
Location:/Lleoliad:	Three Tuns, Cowbridge Road, St. Nicholas
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Double storey and single storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad:	Mill Cottage, Church Farm, Clemenstone
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting the Mill, Threshing Barn, Cart Shed and 4 no. outbuildings at Church Farm, Picket, all Grade II Listed Buildings

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00398/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed residential development comprising 28 dwellings along with associated parking, highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Brecon Court, Barry
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00458/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Full planning application for the erection of 24 no. homes with associated access, landscaping and engineering works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land north of B4265 (Phase II), Boverton, Llantwit Major

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

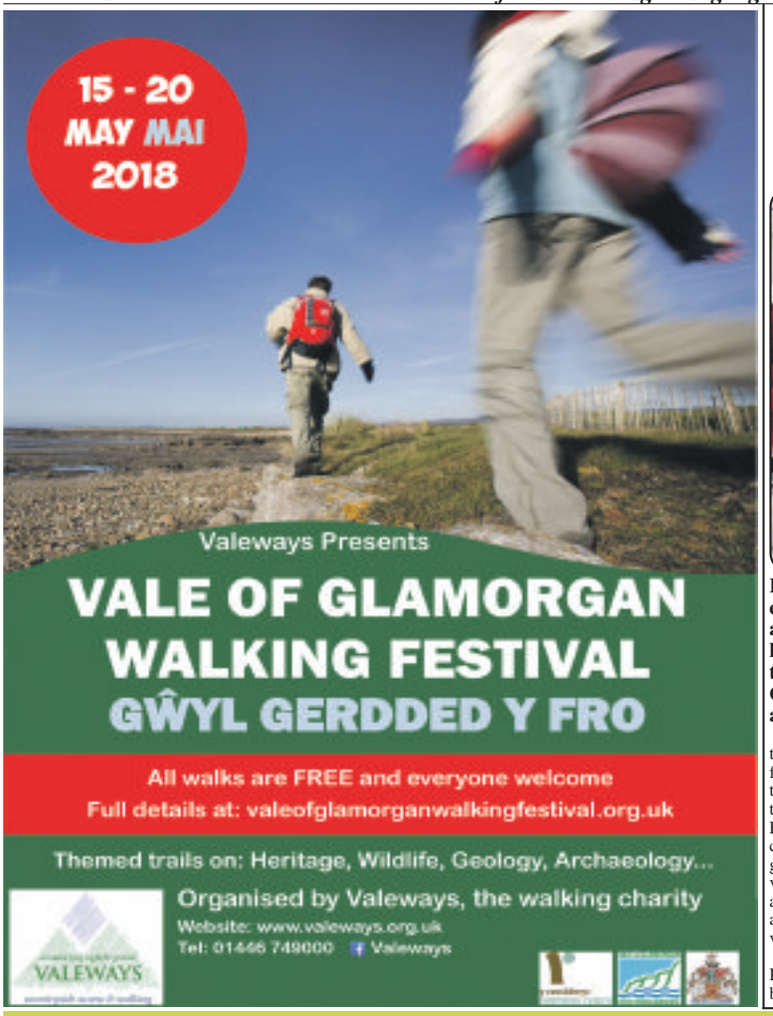
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00273/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of electric barrier approx. 1.2 metres high and 4 metres wide, approx. 40 metres from the farm entrance
Location:/Lleoliad:	Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Walterston, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 3 May, 2018

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



Aircraft engineers of the future take flight on Aero Challenge

The team from Bryn Hafren with their winners' certificates.

BUDDING aircraft engineers from schools across Cardiff and the Vale have been put through their paces at a special Aero Challenge held by Cardiff and Vale College.

The year-10 pupils travelled to the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) for the annual Aero Challenge. Held to mark National Science and Engineering Week, the competition has been designed to give school pupils a taste of the various tasks involved in the aerospace engineering industry and to show the value of vocational education.

An all-girl team from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School beat competition from 10 other schools to win the challenge. The competition involved tests of hand and eye skills and project management. The pupils also tested their skills at the college's flight simulator.

Bryn Hafren pupil Bethan Klee said: "I really enjoyed the day as the challenges we completed were fun and the skills we used were useful for any job. The tasks were aimed at a variety of skills and all encouraged teamwork and communicaton."

Her team mate, Katie Pascoe, added: "In my opinion, the Aero Challenge was a great experience and something I will never forget. I was able to show individual and team skills – ones which contributed to us winning!

"I took many new skills and a lot of information away from the day. It is definitely something I would want to do again!"

Bryn Hafren teacher Miss Bryant said: "I would like to say 'thank you' to Cardiff and Vale College for such an interesting and inspirational day for the girls. The facilities were excellent – the hangar with the planes and equipment definitely has the wow factor as you walk in!

"Feedback from the pupils has been 100 per cent positive, which was echoed at a parents' evening a few days later.

"Most of all, the day has boosted the confidence of the girls greatly, not only with problem solving skills but with their team work and communication. It is a day that I would fully recommend to all schools – we are looking forward to coming back again next year to defend our title and beat our score!"

Charity says cancer patients are missing out on financial support

MACMILLAN WALES says it has secured £14.3 million in welfare benefits payments to help thousands of people cope with the huge financial pressures caused by cancer.

During 2017, the charity's nationwide network of welfare benefits advisers worked with over 5,600 people affected by cancer to help them access welfare benefits they are entitled to

Securing an average of £4,600 for every person referred into the service last year, the charity has now helped people affected by cancer to access over £89.3 million since 2010.

As most people diagnosed with cancer face an average of £570 a month in lost income or increased expenditure, money worries can quickly become a source of anxiety and concern for anyone who receives a cancer diagnosis.

The charity warns that not enough people with cancer are being offered financial help – with only 48 per cent of people who responded to a recent Wales Cancer Patient Experience Survey saying they had been given enough information about financial help and benefits.

Paul Davies, who was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2013, said: "You really can't plan or save for cancer. Believe me, a little bit of financial help goes a long way when you are desperately ill but still having to worry about the bills.

"I'd worked nearly all my life in the UK, but had planned to enjoy some of my retirement in Cyprus. Then I was diagnosed with cancer. Weighing in at less than six stone and with a five per cent chance of survival, I came back to Wales expecting to die.

"We had to rush back with nothing, and we were really struggling. Then we met Macmillan. They not only helped plan my medical care, they also realised that there were other huge pressures and stresses as well.

"They talked through our options and what we might qualify for, and one day a cheque for £500 came through the door.

"It really helped set me up at the time when I needed it the most. That is why I now fundraise for Macmillan as well – we've paid that £500 back and then some, to try and make sure there is support available for the next person who needs it."

Richard Pugh, head of services for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "No-one should underestimate just how big the financial impact of cancer can be.

"We know that money is the next biggest worry for anyone affected by cancer after they have got over the shock of their initial diagnosis.

"That is why we have put a nationwide network of welfare benefits advisers in place to try and alleviate some of the pressure for anyone affected by cancer in Wales.

"If you have cancer, please seek financial advice as early as you can. If you are a professional involved in cancer care, let people know about our services and the support that is available. We really can help to take some of the pressure off."

If you have been affected by cancer, or would like to find out what financial support is available, call Macmillan's free helpline on 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk/money worries.

Social housing is planned for Provincial House in Barry.

Social housing plan at Barry office block

A PLANNING application has been submitted to convert an office building in central Barry into social housing accommodation.

The three-storey 17,297 sq ft Provincial House office block in Kendrick Road has been purchased by SGR Real Estate.

If its planning application is approved, with a decision expected imminently, Kestrel Construction will convert the building into 32 apartments on behalf of social housing provider Hafod.

Hafod is a group of not-for-profit companies that work together to provide housing, care and support services across south Wales.

Commercial property consultant Knight Frank handled the sale on behalf of the owners and Grace Shackell from Knight Frank's Cardiff office said: "The Vale is lacking in development opportunities and when we invited best bids from the market, there was a lot of interest.

"The property was not on the market for long and SGR succeeded with their unconditional offer."

Kes Smith of Kestrel Construction said: "The town centre location is ideal for social housing use. We are confident we will be able to gain the necessary consents. The conversion programme is likely to take up to 18 months."

LDR

Prolific 'car-wash burglar' fails to make clean getaway

A SERIAL burglar who targeted nine car wash businesses across south Wales and the south-west of England in just seven days is behind bars.

Mark Farrington was caught alongside accomplice Anton Sidoryk as they fled the final burglary in Weston-super-Mare and made their way back to Wales on February 21 this year.

The two were travelling in a Mercedes Vito van bearing false number plates, which had been linked to a string of other burglaries carried out in south Wales and Gwent in the days before. They were pulled over by a roads policing officer from Avon and Somerset Police, and arrested for driving and theft offences.

Officers from Barry's Priority Policing Team – who led the investigation and had highlighted the vehicle as suspicious – were able to link Farrington to all nine incidents, during which four vehicles were stolen along with quantities of cash, mobile phones and computer equipment.

The van in which they were caught was owned by Farrington and had previously been reported as stolen by him. CCTV footage from one of the burglaries at the IMO Car Wash in Barry, clearly identified him as one of the burglars.

At Cardiff Crown Court earlier this month, Farrington, of Whitchurch, Cardiff, pleaded guilty to nine counts of burglary, taking a vehicle without consent, and driving without insurance.

Mark Farrington burgled the IMO Car Wash in Barry.

He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and handed a 30-month driving ban.

Anton Sidoryk, from Tremorfa, Cardiff, pleaded guilty to the Weston-super-Mare burglary, and was sentenced to 16 months, suspended for two years. He must also carry out 180 hours of unpaid work.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake said: "Mark Farrington is a prolific offender and I've no doubt he would have targeted more businesses had he not been caught alongside Anton Sidoryk as they made their way back to Wales with the latest haul of stolen goods.

"The conviction is the result of some determined efforts by my team to identify those responsible for the string of audacious burglaries and bring them to justice as quickly as possible. I'd also like to thank our colleagues in Avon and Somerset Police Force for their assistance with this enquiry."

PC

Benefits advice is on offer

ARE you living in Vale and need some advice or help on benefits such as pension credit, attendance allowance, housing benefit, disability living allowance, or PIP?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free Welfare Rights Service which can help you with any of these issues and help with form filling.

A session will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed, just come along from 9.30am-12noon.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information and if you need a home visit.

Ship-shape and Bristol fashion?

Families wanted as BBC casts net for 'creel life' TV series

IN *The Hunt for Red October*, the line "And the sea will grant each man new hope, as sleep brings dreams of home" is attributed to Christopher Columbus, and it strikes a chord with many*.

Similarly, whether a night owl or an early bird, Radio 4's *Shipping Forecast* connects many a landlubber with this nation's seafaring heritage.

So perhaps it is no great surprise that a new immersive living history series – being produced by Wildflame Productions for BBC Wales – focuses on our connection with the coast.

The series will take families back to 1906 to form a traditional fishing community on the rugged Welsh coastline.

For a month, those selected will live and work as our forebears did. Clothes, employment, food, entertainment, socialising... Everything.

Home will be a fisherman's cottage with no mod cons, and all the money to live on will be earned from the coast.

A spokesperson said: "Families taking part will endure the best and the worst of what the wild Sea can throw at them, and while life will be tough, it is sure to be a unique and exhilarating experience. We are looking for four diverse families to take part; families that reflect Wales today, but who would like to experience the Wales of yesterday.

"Knowledge of fishing or sailing is not necessary, but Wildflame is keen to talk to people with ancestral links to the sea.

"Perhaps their great-grandfather was a lighthouse keeper or fisherman, or had a grandmother was a cockle woman. "Maybe their parents or grandparents came to Wales as sailors or may have worked as shipbuilders or in the docks.

"The options are varied and potentially endless but the most important thing of all is that the people who apply are excited and keen for the challenge."

Interested? Well, before your grab your sou'wester and don your seaboots, visit www.wildflameproductions.co/casting to apply online.

For more information, email casting@wildflameproductions.co.uk, or call 07599 812383.

The closing date for applications is May 27.

AJ

**Columbus did not say it; it was written for the film by screenwriter Larry Ferguson.*

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'Park activities could boost income'

A VALE Council report has proposed that areas of open space land such as Porthkerry Park, Cosmeston Park and Leckwith woods should be leased to organisations who want to develop activities and facilities there.

Bob Guy, the council operational manager for regeneration, said the idea was to boost tourism, the local economy and boost council coffers.

"We believe these proposals represent exciting opportunities that will add to the appeal of the locations in question, enhancing the visitor experience by offering fresh ways in which they can be enjoyed.

"They will also boost tourism, which will have positive consequences for the local economy as tourism generates income and local jobs.

"In a climate of increased financial pressures on the council, it is vital new and innovative ways to generate income are explored to sustain important services and protect our special places.

"These important sites cost a lot to maintain to the exceptional standards rightly expected by the public.

"Sustainability will be key, with any successful proposals subject to all appropriate processes. That includes planning consent, which, among other factors, evaluates environmental impact and any recommendations or requirements made by Natural Resources Wales and other statutory bodies.

"The planning process also involves an opportunity for public consultation."

One GEM reader contacted the paper to say she had her concerns about camping and high rope activities going ahead at Porthkerry Park.

"I personally think this will ruin the space and threaten the wildlife in the park, with both buzzards and sparrowhawks roosting in the trees.

"Facilities would also have to be built to accommodate the campers such as toilets and showers which would also impact the area, which is small.

"I do not have local knowledge of the other sites they want to lease but think that they would not benefit from being over-developed either."

Bridgend Athletic mini and junior rugby round-up

ON Sunday, April 29, Bridgend Athletic under-7s attended the Bridgend Sports RFC rugby festival at Pencoed College.

The commitment of the squad of young players and group of parents meant that with strong numbers, the Athletic were able to field three teams.

Over two pools, the teams played opposition from Bridgend Sports, Pencoed, Tondu, Nantyfyllon, Cambrian Colts, Aberavon Quins, Rhondda, Valley Ravens and Kenfig Hill.

The youngsters once again gave a great account of themselves, playing high quality, exciting rugby against stiff competition. Of the 15 matches played the Ath registered 12 wins, one loss and two draws.

The day was finished off with their presentation evening, which was a fantastic occasion! Those present were treated to a compilation of video clips of the youngsters playing at the Pencoed festival.

The youngsters were individually presented with a trophy and team photograph by Rhys Webb. It was a great way to bring the curtain down on a highly successful season.

It was also a fitting way for the team to bid farewell to Regan Webb, who will be leaving the team next season when he joins his dad Rhys out in Toulon. Have a great time Regan and return to us one day.

The under-8s played in the festival and the outstanding team once again prevailed unbeaten with wins over Treorchy, Maesteg Celtic, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend Sports, Pencoed, Cefn Cribwr, Nantyffyllon and Cambrian Colts, scoring a total of 61 tries.

Well done to all 19 players involved Ethan Davies, Ashton Davies, Dylan Jones, Rhys Gardiner, Dylan Gardiner, Osian Kenny, Rudi Quinn, Iestyn Bissmire, Max Edwards, Ewan Gill, Jude Lewis, Grayson Whelan, Regan Henly, Mason Brown, Callum Brown, William Waite, Ethan Morris, Caiden Donovan and Reuben O'Brien.

The under-9s ended their season by entering two teams in the festival. The teams' recent good form meant they were full of confidence.

The Ath, who were up against strong opposition from Bridgend Sports, Valley Ravens, Nantyffyllon and Talywain, started brightly and showed how they wanted to play from the off.

Strong direct running by the forwards and quick offloading before the tackle, caused problems for the opposing teams all day.

Great link play between forwards and backs resulted in many fantastic tries being scored, with over half of the team getting on the scoresheet.

The defence was equally impressive as they consistently completed six tackles and won plenty of turnover ball.

In a great team effort, they ended the festival winning seven games, drawing two and losing one.

The coaches would like to thank all the players for their hard work and dedication over the season. They now have a well-deserved break before coming back in the summer for pre-season training to learn the laws of rucking.

The under-10s were also in action at the festival and were in pool A against Mumbles, Pencoed, Baglan, Bridgend Sports and Aberavon Quins.

The day kicked off with a strong start and 2-0 win against Mumbles despite having only 11 players available. Ioan Phillips and Xavier were the try scorers.

The second game with the Athletic restored to 12 players against a strong Pencoed side was a joy to watch, with both sides unable to breach the other's defences, resulting in a 0-0 draw

Fuelled by bacon rolls the team then went up a gear defeating a strong Baglan side 8-0, drawing great admiration from the Baglan coaches, who remarked the Ath were the best team they had played all season. Try scorers were Morgan Bold, Ioan Shepard, Xavier (3), Mckenzie, Evan and Reagan.

The fourth game saw school pals pitched against each other and players who had performed for both clubs, Bridgend Sports and the Athletic.

The rivalry for bragging rights produced a tough enjoyable game to watch with the Athletic prevailing by 2-0. Try scorers were Ioan Phillips and former Sports player Ethan.

The final game saw the team complete the day and season on a high defeating Aberavon Quins 8-0 and not conceding a try all day. Try scorers McKenzie (2), Evan (2), Harri (2), Ioan Phillips and Ethan.

A massive thank you to the youngster for a fantastic day of rugby and yet another festival undefeated.

The under-13s were at the Dragons training centre in Ystrad Mynach to play one of the most accomplished teams at this age level, Newbridge, who had beaten them earlier in the season 32-7.

Newbridge started strongly, and it was no surprise when they scored their first try when their number 8 broke through two tackles to score.

The Ath's tackling was great as they kept them out, including some miracle stuff on the right by Shea Duggan to get the ball into touch.

The under-15s in action.

Newbridge's consistent pressure saw their No 8 pick up and feed their big centre who crashed over to score a converted try and increase their lead to 12-0.

Just before half-time a mistake at an Ath lineout allowed Newbridge to score a converted try for a 19-0 half-time lead.

At the start of the second half the Ath pressured their midfield and Sam Matthews came up with the ball, he shifted it to Shea Duggan who was in the clear and ran 50 metres to score a try converted by Daniel Hughes to reduce the deficit to 19-7.

Growing in confidence, the Ath went on the offensive. A great run by McKenzie Grey carried on by Daniel Hughes took them into the Newbridge 22, but their excellent full back got back to snuff out the danger.

Newbridge weathered the storm to finish strongly with two more tries to win 29-7.

It was an excellent match, with all the boys putting in a shift, tackling their hearts out. Credit to Newbridge, who were a very good outfit.

On Saturday the under-14s welcomed Bowdon RFC from Manchester, a touring side down for the weekend to watch Judgement Day at the Principality Stadium.

Playing their final home game of the season and with some players missing due to football, a big effort was needed by all 18 players to match the 25 from Bowdon.

From the kick off the Ath were trying to force play and making errors. It took about 10 minutes to settle the nerves and start playing phases with forwards and backs combining.

The Ath started offloading at every opportunity, making it difficult for Bowdon to defend and it wasn't long before the tries started coming.

By half-time the Ath were totally in control but credit to Bowdon, they looked dangerous with the ball in hand.

With the second half underway it was the Ath who struck first and grew in confidence with the ball in hand. A counter-attack by the Ath, running from their own 22-metre line, was stopped for a fractured thumb suffered by outside half Evan Beach resulting in his game ending.

Credit to the team, they re-shuffled and stuck to the task in front of them with some lovely tries run in by Gus Patterson (3), Ethan Scourfield (2), Tom Clarke (2), Ollie Donaghue and Will Laverick (2). Conversions came from Evan Beach (3) and Olly Williams.

With Bowdon scoring two great tries of their own the Ath didn't get it all their way, the final score Bridgend Ath 58, Bowdon 10.

There were a lot of stand-out players with Gus Patterson putting in a great performance; also Dexter Jones and Callum Duckett in the forwards. Best backs were Will Laverick, Tom Clarke and Josh Evans.

The under-15s lost 36-10 in the Ospreys Cup semi-final to a very strong Gowerton team.

They did well to reach that stage progressing from a group stage comprising Lloughor, Cwmavon and Briton Ferry.

Unfortunately, nerves played a part and the team did not function to its full potential which was the minimum required on the day. Best of luck to Gowerton in the final.

The Athletic tries were scored by John Coates and Luke Thomas. **AB**

Day exits Crucible after mixed performance

BRIDGEND'S Ryan Day produced a 'Jekyll and Hyde' performance to make a first round exit in the world snooker championship in Sheffield.

The Pontycymer potter was in fine form on the first day of his two-day clash with Scotland's Anthony McGill, opening up a 6-3 overnight lead with the help of two big breaks.

He won the second frame with a 141 break, and topped that in the ninth with a 145, just two short of a maximum and a contender for the tournament's biggest break prize.

He began well enough on the second day, a 51 break helping him stretch his lead to 7-3m, but McGill then hit back by winning the next two frames, with Day winning the 13th to lead 8-5, looking well set to win the best-of-19 clash.

But 38-year-old Day, ranked 17th in the world, fell apart afterwards, missing a series of straightforward pots that would normally have caused him little trouble.

That allowed McGill, ranked three places higher at 14th, but not playing particularly well himself, the opportunity to win the next five frames.

He emerged with a remarkable 10-8 win to earn a second round match against China's Ding Junhui.

Day, in good form in recent months with consecutive tournament wins in Gibraltar and Romania, must have been scratching his head afterwards in trying to understand how his form had deserted him so dramatically.

Even the television commentators were struggling to explain it.

It may simply have been the pressure of playing at the Crucible on the sport's biggest stage, but it was certainly an experience he will want to put behind him as quickly as possible.

Day has made over 330 century breaks in a 20-year career, was once ranked sixth in the world and has won around £1.3 million in prize money.

MICHAEL PROSSER

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors/supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

Rwyf yn hysbysu bod y ceisiadau canlynol wedi cael eu gwneud. Gellir bwrw golwg ar ddogfennau'r ceisiadau yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB neu ar y dudalen gynllunio ar wefan y Cyngor. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ar y ceisiadau hyn ar sail cynllunio'r defnydd o dir ysgrifennu at y Cyngor at y cyfeiriad uchod erbyn y dyddiad a nodir dan bob categori ceisiadau neu gyflwyno'i sylwadau ar-lein. Ni anfonir cydnabyddiaeth yn dilyn derbyn sylwadau ar geisiadau. Bydd unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio ac mae'n bosib fydd enwau gwrthwynebwyr/cefnogwyr ar gael ar y Rhyngrwyd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Rheoli Datblygu'n gweithredu trefniadau i aelodau o'r cyhoedd gael siarad. Os ydych yn dymuno nodi bwriad i siarad yn y Pwyllgor (os na fydd y cais yn cael ei brosesu dan bwerau wedi'u dirprwyo), nodwch hynny yn eich ymateb. I gael mwy o wybodaeth ffoniwch 01656 643675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012
P/18/139/FUL Demolish Bro Ewenny Nursing Home and construct new extra care consisting of 16no. care bedrooms and 26no. extra care apartments - Bro Ewenny Nursing Home Ewenny Road Bridgend by Acteen Limited
P/18/145/RES Reserved matters to P/17/1043/RLX for 194 residential units - Land west of Heol Ty Maen Cefn Glas by Barratt Homes South Wales Ltd
RESPOND BY: 14/05/2018
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING
P/18/209/FUL Change of use of former Groundwork Trust offices to dwelling including access, car parking and curtilage - The Engine House Tondu Park Maesteg Road Tondu by Mr V Hughes
P/18/235/OUT Outline application for the construction of 4 dwellings and parking - Land adj to Rookwood Pyle Road Pyle by Stratford Collins Build & Design Pension Scheme
RESPOND BY: 23/05/2018
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
P/18/257/LIS Alteration and conversion of property to form ground floor retail unit and 4 offices at first and second floors - 14 Dunraven Place Bridgend by HD Ltd
P/18/308/LIS Erection of a childrens play area within amenity grounds of the public house - The Pheasant Heol Eglwys Pen-y-fai by SA Brain & Company Ltd
RESPOND BY: 23/05/2018

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol-Cymunedau 03/5/2018

Brynteg win senior Welsh Cup final

ON April 18, the Brynteg Senior rugby team played against Ysgol y Preseli in the Senior Welsh Cup Final at the Principality Stadium Cardiff.

After a superb season and an undefeated league campaign, the team looked to conclude their successful rugby careers in Brynteg in the right fashion.

Brynteg attempted to play an expansive style early on but the opposition dominated possession. Brynteg defended heroically and kept the score 0-0 until some ill-discipline allowed Preseli to take the lead.

Brynteg managed to launch a great counter attack from captain Joe

Patterson, linking with No 8 Tom Davies, which relieved the pressure.

The school played well and with a surging run from left winger Joe Davies, forced the Preseli full back into a try-saving tackle, before some close range scrums. This paid dividends, and after some resilient defence from prop Chris Crumpton, he powered over and centre Harry Hopkins converted.

Brynteg then dominated possession and a tiring Preseli defence struggled to keep up. In the Preseli 22, Matthew Hobby threw a superb miss pass to find Oran Harry in the wide channel, who bundled over taking two defenders with him to make the score 12-3.

Preseli fought back but mistakes cost them possession, allowing Brynteg to build another attack. Cameron Lewis drove the attack up to the Preseli try line where a few try-saving tackles kept them from scoring.

During the resultant ruck, Hobby executed a speculative cross field kick which, after some readjustment, was taken by Oran Harry to step inside and score his second of the match.

With 15 minutes to go, Hobby almost scored another try. Preseli's forwards fought their way back into the match which paid off, securing a try under the posts and the conversion making it 19-10.

Brynteg's defence and discipline kept Preseli at bay until the final whistle sounded, making Brynteg the Senior Welsh Cup champions.

Athletic youth are league champions!

FOLLOWING a 41-6 win against Kenfig Hill Youth last Saturday Bridgend Athletic Youth registered another 41 points in a 41-12 win over Pencoed youth at the Morganstone Brewery Field.

Despite the six tries to two count, it was not a vintage Athletic performance in front of a sizeable midweek crowd.

The Athletic relied on individuals – particularly hat trick hero No 8 Will Barraclough – to secure the win, whereas against Kenfig Hill it was more a team effort.

The win ensured the Athletic retained their Ospreys A League title and sends them into the Regional League play-off semi-final, representing the Ospreys region, against Scarlets league champions Crymych on Saturday, May 12, venue to be decided.

The Athletic will be hoping to emulate last season's side that went on to win the Welsh League Championship.

The opening exchanges were even before Barraclough took a short pass 45 metres out and outsprinted the Pencoed defence to cross in the corner. Scrum half Matthew Hobby slotted an excellent touchline conversion.

Pencoed responded by winning an Athletic line out and passing along the line for Josh Lane to go over wide out for an unconverted try.

Hobby then extended the Athletic lead to 10-5 with a penalty.

A strong run through the middle by centre and captain Joe Patterson set up a ruck and when a short pass was delivered to Barraclough, he again outpaced the cover for his second try.

It also saw the Athletic as the only Ospreys A league side to score 300 points this season. The score then remained 15-5 to the Athletic until half-time.

A heel against the head by Athletic hooker Jack Obbard, aided by props Callum Swinford and Tom Zielinski, gave the scrum a nudge forward, and saw the Ath forwards, with locks Jack Bassett and Owen Leyshon prominent, split the cover with a series of pick and goes.

Half backs Hobby and Morgan Roberts then fed centre Levi Hallet who skipped past a defender to race over under the posts, which Hobby converted.

Flankers Tom Davies and Dan Osarigie made good runs but were tackled well by the brave Pencoed defence.

The tendency to crab across the field and throw aimless mis-passes saw any room for Athletic wings Nathan Willis and Sam Owens and full back Cameron Lewis to operate easily negated by an organised Pencoed drift defence; also, poor cross kicks were easily dealt with.

The Athletic refreshed things by emptying their entire bench bringing on Chris Crumpton, Morgan Clemett, Louis King, Sion Vigers, Josh Tidy Harry Ridge and under-16 players Dewi Hardy and Rhys Hyde.

Replacement Crumpton was on hand to finish a 20-metre line out drive for the Athletic's fifth try.

From a scrum the Athletic went blind and Barraclough showed strength to cross for his hat trick try, which Hobby converted.

With Pencoed then enjoying a period of pressure, Athletic outside half Morgan Roberts intercepted on his own 22.

He drew the cover and chipped ahead. Rhys Hyde, showing great speed, was first to the ball and was delighted to get his first Athletic youth try. Roberts converted.

Undeterred and thanks to the great spirit they had shown throughout, Pencoed had the final say with a good try from lock Jack Walker converted by full back Tom Renfree.

Head coach Lee Grabham, although pleased with the result, was disappointed with the performance.

He said that the team are inconsistent – not helped by injuries to key players – and hopes against Crymych in the league play-off semi-final the team that played against Kenfig Hill, not Pencoed, turn up on the day.

Thanks to all the players who have participated this season for their efforts on the field and training pitch and coaching assistants Kevin Gamble, Keith Hobby, Paul Obbard and Mike Groom for their great assistance during the season.

AB

Title is nearly in the grasp of Maesteg Celtic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52

Cwmgors fought back and evened the score with two excellent tries of their own but Celtic ended the half with their third magnificent try.

Luke Richards put centre Mathew Harris though a gap and he passed to wing Sam Mines. He jinked inside and beat three men before passing back to Harris and ever-present flanker Jonathan Davies was on hand to finish the move off.

A Celtic player was yellow carded early in the second half but this did not deter the home side.

Jumper Mark Hillier-Rees won a lineout in the visitors' 22 and the pack drove to the line. They were held up short and hooker Ashley Poole released the ball for flanker Callum Bowen to dive over the try line. Harris converted.

Cwmgors retaliated with their third try before captain Oliver Petty scored his 10th try of the season when he drove over in the corner from a scrum.

Petty started the move that lead to Celtic's sixth try when he rampaged up the touchline before passing to Leon Evans, who passed inside to the on-form Kristian Jenkins.

He was stopped short but the man of the match Mark Hillier-Rees was on hand to score. Luke Richards converted.

A few minutes later Cwmgors were rewarded with a bonus point try of their own.

Jonathan Davies scores for Maesteg Celtic.

The game concluded with Celtic's seventh try as Leon Evans ran from a scrum and found Kristian Jenkins arriving at pace.

He cut though the defence to touch down under the posts to make the final score 43-26 and put the Celts one step closer to the championship.

MAESTEG CELTIC SECONDS 27, MAESTEG QUINS SECONDS 12

Maesteg Celtic seconds met local rivals Maesteg Quins at Garth Park for their final game of the season.

The game was played in good spirit with both teams spreading the ball at every opportunity.

Quins opened the scoring with a well-executed three-quarter move. Their forwards increased the lead after their scrum caused chaos in the Celtic defence and they crashed over for a touchdown.

Celtic closed the gap when prop Dale Cook passed to hooker Deri Lloyd who found full back James Jones in support.

Flanker Neil Sainsbury arrived at pace and beat the defence to score in the corner.

They closed the gap even further, as a result of great inter-passing by the forwards which led to second row Nathan Jenkins rampaging down the middle only to be hauled down short.

Scrum half Nathan Edwards spun the ball to centre Gavin Joseph on the blindside and hooker Deri Lloyd ran in the try.

Celtic took the lead in the second half when they took a quick penalty and outside half Nathan Healey drew the defence before putting man of the match Deri Lloyd over for his second.

Celtic's fourth try came when flanker Nathan Adams won a lineout in the visitors' 22 and Deri Lloyd took the ball through the defence.

The Quins defence over-anticipated the next move and left a gap for Nathan Edwards to sprint through and score.

The game concluded when centre Neil Arthur made a break on half way and passed to James Jones who moved it on to fullback Scott Wilkins who beat three defenders before touching down under the posts. Jones converted.

KS

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest?
Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Solid win for Pencoed

PENCOED travelled to the Amman valley looking to consolidate their top half position in Division 2 West Central against Cwmgors.

Pencoed started brightly enough and following concerted pressure James Tredray managed to force his way over on eight minutes. The conversion failed.

Cwmgors then started to enjoy some territorial advantage and this was rewarded with a successful penalty on 18 minutes. Pencoed went back on the attack and on a couple of occasions, spurned the chance to kick at goal, instead opting to kick to touch.

The tactic worked well on 20 minutes when a driving maul from a line out take forced captain Kieron Moore over the line. Rhys Clarke added the extras.

Cwmgors kept themselves in the game by kicking a second successful penalty on 28 minutes.

On 34 minutes Pencoed put everything in place resulting in Shane Izatt putting Jamie Dyer clear who scampered over to score wide out. The conversion failed.

A minute before half-time the referee adjudged that Pencoed No13 deliberately knocked on when in the act of making a tackle, resulting in Pencoed starting the second half with 14 players and a half-time score of 6-17.

Cwmgors didn't take long to make their numerical advantage count, scoring a fine converted try with a minute of the half gone.

Things got worse for Pencoed when a second yellow card was shown to their No11 for a deliberate knock-on, again in the act of tackling.

Cwmgors were able to take advantage of their superior numbers, scoring a second converted try on 46 minutes giving them the lead, 20-17.

With 15 players back on the field Pencoed were able to put pressure back on Cwmgors and this was rewarded with a successful penalty from Rhys Clarke.

With the scores level the final quarter was always going to be tense. The defining moment came when Pencoed were awarded a scrummage on the Cwmgors 10 metre line on 79 minutes.

Their dominance here throughout the game was evident when they were awarded a penalty. Rhys Clarke stepped up and showing great composure kicked the ball through the middle of the posts.

Cwmgors made a mess of the restart allowing Pencoed to opt for a scrummage, which they won and kicked the ball to touch to run out winners, 20-23.

SD

History made as Porthcawl RFC win the WRU Bowl!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52

Just as it seemed Porthcawl were back on track again, the match turned in dramatic fashion. A fabulous run from Pembroke full-back Luke Hartland set up a second try for Smith, which Hartland himself converted, before Smith's brother, fly-half Toby, moved the ball down the left touchline to wing Elliot Evans.

As he was tackled at the corner, Evans produced a magical offload, as good as any seen at the highest level, to put scrum-half Lewis over for a dramatic try. Smith converted and suddenly, Pembroke had clawed back from 27-5 down to lead 31-30 going into the final 10 minutes of the match.

Time for Owen Thomas to step in and he made a superb clear break, covering fully 50 metres, for Phillips to carry on from the quick rucked ball and put Gareth Rees clear to the line, only for a magnificent tackle by Lewis to save the day as Porthcawl drove for glory.

Nick Nutman, Jordan Skidmore and Gavin Williams joined the fray to complete the Seaweeds bench of substitutes

As the match swung to the other end, a ruck near the Porthcawl line saw Matt Cook pull off a superb try-saving tackle on Wood with five minutes left, the game hanging in the balance as Pembroke seemed to have the upper hand.

Back came the Seaweeds, forwards leading the charge with play again moved back into Pembroke territory, and Skidmore's snap drop goal attempt sliced agonisingly wide with Pembroke now having to kick out from the 22.

Porthcawl secured the ball and moved to Ben Thomas who suffered a high tackle to give Porthcawl a dramatic chance to steal the match, but with kicker White prostrate on the turf with cramp.

However, up stepped the fly-half to signal his penalty attempt with the hearts of the whole stadium audience in their mouths.

From 35 metres, White calmly stepped up and slotted the kick to seal the match at 33-31 - Porthcawl's supporters went wild, the final whistle sounded and the Pembroke players were left broken in the cruellest of twists to a match.

History was now made and as skipper Richard Hnyda stepped up to receive the trophy, the smile on the face of coach Rhys James told its own story of an incredible journey that will go down in Porthcawl folklore.

PAUL FIELDING

ATHLETIC READY FOR FINAL DAY SHOWDOWN

Aled Thomas crosses the whitewash. PICTURE BY JOHN CANNON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52

However not for the first time man of the match Muir provided a bone-crushing tackle, completely dislodging the ball from the centre's hand to the relief of his team mates and supporters alike who were resigned to a Bonymaen try.

The Parc Mawr side did finally breach the Athletic defence when, with three minutes remaining, No 8 Rhys Leonard forced his way over under the posts for a try converted by Cuniffe to reduce the deficit to a single point and give the Athletic supporters two anxious minutes.

However, the players were not about to throw away a six-month winning sequence and contained play around midfield to hold on to a deserved win that, at three tries to one, should have been more comfortable.

So, it is up the Llynfi Valley next to Maesteg Quins for an eagerly-awaited, mouth-watering clash between the top two sides in Division 1 West Central this Saturday, May 5.

PILL HARRIERS SECOND XV 7, BRIDGEND ATHLETIC SECOND XV 26
WRU CONFERENCE TIER 2, APRIL 28

Following a minute's silence in honour of Clive Easterbrook, Bridgend Athletic kicked off their away WRU Conference fixture in Tredegar Park against Pill Harriers.

A 26-7 bonus point victory for the Athletic nicely set up a Tier 2 Championship decider against Rhiwbina. This home Athletic fixture will take place on Friday, May 4, at Newbridge Fields, kick-off 6.45pm.

The early stages of a very physical encounter saw the Harriers hammering at the Athletic try line for 10 minutes with a strong pick and go approach.

Strong defence repeatedly repelled the attacks. Eventually turnover ball allowed a clearance kick downfield well chased by wing Ryan Pickford. Quick play and accurate passing saw centre Nick Jones break clear and run in from 25 metres for the opening try of the match.

Good line out possession from lock Aled Pilliner saw him combine well with prop Tom Morgan and flanker Jacob David to release fellow flanker Hywel Cosby.

When Cosby was halted 10 metres short of the line hooker Lewis Down was on hand to pick up and pop the ball to David who crossed under the posts. Scott Jones' conversion gave the Athletic a 12-0 advantage.

Patient build-up, going through five phases of possession, saw Liam Griffiths pass to outside half Scott Jones. Jones weaved his way through the home defence before releasing the backs.

Hywel Cosby received the ball and a deft back-of-the-hand inside pass saw scrum half Joe Symons finish the move with the Athletic's third try, converted by Jones. Alex Borley then came off the bench.

Strong running from wing Josh Seldon put the Green & Golds on the front foot. A well-orchestrated move saw centre Luke Hollyman deceive the Pill defence with a dummy run, opening a gap for flanker Cosby to run through and cross for the Athletic bonus point try. Jones conversion gave the Athletic a 26-0 lead.

A second Athletic yellow card on the day saw the Pill pack capitalise with a strong forward surge resulting in a converted consolation try under the posts.

In a good Athletic team effort special mention goes to forwards Aled Pilliner, Josh Carey, Geraint Lang and Lewis Down for good work in defence and general overall performance.

AB

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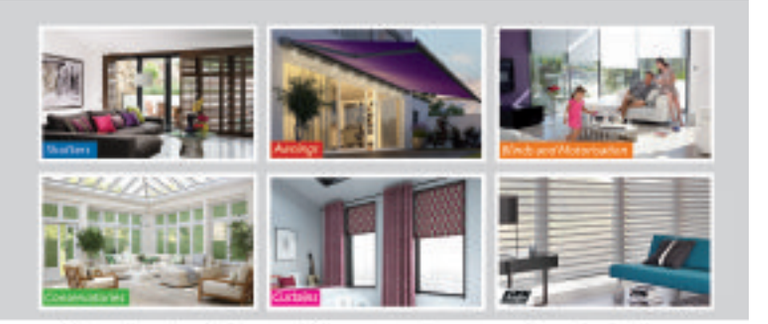

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Family Notices

REES
Dorothy Anne

Peacefully at Bethany House, Archer Road, Barry Island on 20th April, Dorothy Anne, much loved sister and auntie.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all her loving family, carers and friends.

Resting in the care of A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium Barry, Friday, 11th May at 1pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

DUNKERTON
Bertram Stanley 'Stan'

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 21st April 2018, Stan, aged 95 years. Beloved husband of Nita and formerly of the late Jeanne. Much loved dad of John, Andrew, Susan and David and a loved grandad and great grandad.

Stan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday, 15th May at 1.30pm, followed by interment in the cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research c/o the funeral director.

WILLIAMS
Edna 'Doreen'

Suddenly on Tuesday, 17th April, Doreen sadly passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Wife of the late Howell, beloved mother, nan and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 14th May, service 1.15 pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only.

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JONES
Elizabeth Ann 'Liz'

Peacefully on 23rd April at Marie Curie Hospice Penarth with her family surrounding her, Liz, aged 60 years. Beloved partner of Julian, much loved sister of Jeff, Martin, Gordon and Raydene. Loved aunt to her nieces and nephew.

Liz will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 9th May at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

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ANGEL
Grace Violet

Peacefully at Barry Community Hospital on 23rd April, Grace sadly passed away. Devoted wife of the late Vince, much loved mum of Raymond, Rosemary, Michael, Julie, Peter, Michelle, Linda and Mark. An adored nan to her grandchildren, cherished nan nan to her great grandchildren and loving sister of Ivy.

Grace will be dearly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, 8th May at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support the Stroke Unit at Llandough Hospital in memory of Grace.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis on telephone 01446 407962.

BENNETT
Jane (*Grimble*)

Loving wife to the late Howard, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, sadly passed away on 18th April 2018 at Llandough Hospital.

Jane will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Funeral service to take place at Cardiff and Glamorgan crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 9th May at 2pm. Donations in lieu of flowers will be greatly received by Jane's family for Kidney Research; these can be given to the funeral director or at the Seaview Labour Club, Dock View Road, Barry after the service.

BATE
Howard

Suddenly but peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on 23rd April 2018, Howard, aged 77 years, formerly of Rhoose and Barry. Dearly loved brother of Jocelyn and the late Graham and Adrian. Much loved uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Howard will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Monday, 14th May at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 2pm.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Dogs Trust c/o the funeral director.

CADOGAN
Russell

Russell Cadogan, aged 94, of Heol Tysant, Litchard (previously of Pencoed and Coity) passed away peacefully in the early hours of Thursday, 26 April 2018, following a short period of hospitalisation, at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Devoted husband of Brenda, much loved father of Martin, Wendy and the late Robert, father-in-law to Anne and Teresa. Grandfather to John, Christopher, Phillip, Andrew, Rhian, Sian and Carys and great grandfather to Emily, Hallie, Ella and Shaye. Public service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 10 May 2018 at 11am.

Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the Wales Air Ambulance or British Heart Foundation c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2 Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. (Tel: 01656 860545)

Family Notices

WEEKES
Branwen Mair

Peacefully at home on 25th April, Branwen passed away, aged 96 years.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium on Friday, 4th May at 5pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations welcome to Shelter Cymru, 25 Walter Road, Swansea, SA1 5NN.

PENNELL
Roger

03.08.1936 - 27.04.2018

Without any fuss, Roger died on Friday, 27th April at Princess of Wales Hospital. Beloved husband to Margaret, adored father to Andrea, Kate and Liz, proud grandpa to Thomas, Hywel, Annabel and Florence.

Funeral to take place at Coychurch Crematorium, 9.30am on Thursday, 10th May. Family flowers only.

HUGGETT
Maureen Patricia (Mo)

Peacefully on 27th April at Springbank Nursing Home - Maureen, beloved Wife of the late Trevor. A loving Partner to Bob and much loved Mum of Gwen, Debbie, Derek and their families. A dear Sister to Margaret.

Mo will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a celebration of her life at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 14th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Barry RNLI in memory of Mo.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis, telephone 01446 407962.

In Memory

STEWART
Hagar Rosina Margaret
(Known as Maggie)

1 May 2010

Eight years have passed, but you will never be forgotten,
Always in our thoughts, love and miss you forever.
From your loving daughters and son,
Annette, Jean and Christopher *xxx*

WILLIAMS
Ronnie

4th May

Special memories on your 80th birthday, always in our thoughts, never forgotten.

Love and miss you,
Winnie, Jenny, Joanne & family xx

Pet In Memory

'Moby'

17/04/2002 - 09/05/2017

'Someone who understands me and knows me inside out, who helps keep me together and believes without a doubt, that I could move a mountain and someone to tell it to, If I had only one friend left, I'd want it to be you'

From your forever loving family xxx.

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Acknowledgements

TUCK
Graham

William Graham Tuck is at rest and in peace.

The family of Graham would like to thank everyone who came to pay their respects to such a wonderful man. Thanks also extends to Lyndsay Ellis and his team at Vale Funeral Services for the care and kindness provided as well as Lorraine Barrett for her lovely, beautiful words. A thank you also to Tynewydd Inn staff for their service during the wake.

PARTRIDGE
Olive Valerie

The family of the late Olive Valerie of Tordoff Way, Barry wish to thank Reverend C. Seaton for officiating at the funeral service.

Also, all family and friends for attending and for the wonderful floral tributes, messages of sympathy and cards received.

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Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is seeking to appoint a new Assistant Town Clerk to support the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

The ideal candidate should have experience of administration, customer service, accounting, competent IT skills and a willingness to pursue ongoing training opportunities and have a good understanding of Local Government Law, procedures and protocol.

Previous experience of working in local government, especially in a Town or Community Council environment, would be advantageous.

An Application Form and Job Specification/ Description can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, Town Hall, 21 High street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD. Tel No. 01446 773385 or email – enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or online at www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.
CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: Friday, 18th May at noon. Interviews will be held on Thursday, 24th May 2018

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is striving to be an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Public Notice

Public Notice
Licensing Act 2003

To whom it may concern, I, **Simon Griffiths,** do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at: **Coedarhydyglyn, Saint Nicholas, CF5 6SF** known as **Coedarhydyglyn Park.**
THE LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES WILL BE:

Sale of Alcohol For Consumption on Site: Friday 27th July 2018, Saturday 28th July 2018, Sunday 29th July 2018 12pm – 2am

Provision of Live Music: Friday 27th July 4pm – 12am, Saturday 28th July 12.30pm – 12am, Sunday 29th July 12.30pm – 12am

Provision of Recorded Music: Friday 27th July 2pm – 2am, Saturday 28th July 2pm – 2am, Sunday 29th July 2pm – 2am.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of this application can be viewed at the Civic Offices at normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Signed: Simon Griffiths
Date 24th April 2018.

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Banners that break the law attract fines

LOCAL organisations have been warned that the Vale Council is cracking down on banners on highways.

The council told The GEM that its main consideration was 'safety' and that organisations needed to realise that they had seek permission before putting a banner in a location.

Plaid Cymru's Dinas Powys councillors say the council should get in touch with voluntary groups to clarify what steps they can take if they want to publicise an event, rather than organisations approaching the council.

Councillors say they are concerned about banners relating to village shows, Christmas concerts, charitable fund raisers and sports events.

Cllr Chris Franks said that he was 'shocked' to learn that sports bodies and other community groups had received fines of £75.

He said: "This was a bill for simply placing temporary banners at locations such as the railings at Parc Bryn y Don, Dinas Powys.

"Respectable, hard-working volunteers were being threatened that unless they paid up almost immediately the bill could run to thousands.

"It is difficult to understand the mentality of the council. On one hand they say they want to support the community then they threaten clubs with court action."

Plaid said that following representations made by them the Vale had cancelled some fines.

Cllr Franks added: "This is welcomed. We call for the Vale to fully consider its policies and come up with acceptable arrangements. We know that the safety of people is the priority. However, this blanket ban will hit voluntary organisations.

"It is using a sledge hammer to crack a nut. There must be a solution where community events can be advertised without compromising safety."

Miles Punter, Vale Council director of environment and housing services, emphasised that placing banners on the highway without proper permission is an offence.

"The placing of banners on the highway without the authority of the council is an offence. The primary concern is highway safety, as banners can obscure driver visibility, particularly when they are attached to pedestrian barriers.

"In the past we have charged offenders the cost of removing and storing banners for their return.

"However, we have recently started to issue fixed penalty notices for this offence as their removal is taking up valuable resources that could be better spent on services."

Mr Punter added: "Placing banners on the highway without authority is an offence regardless of their purpose so the council is unable to differentiate between those that are put up for charitable or voluntary purposes and those using the space for commercial gain." **TC**

Council makes plans to supply 'free' sanitary products in schools

SANITARY products could soon be handed out to all schoolgirls in the Vale.

Products such as tampons and towels could soon be provided free at the point of use at schools across the Vale after councillors gave their backing to a scheme tackling 'period poverty' in the area.

A working group will decide how to implement the plans after the council's Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee unanimously voted in favour of the idea on Monday (April 23).

A £1 million fund from Welsh Government has been launched to tackle soc-called period poverty and councils including Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr are already developing similar schemes.

The committee heard some girls are missing school due to embarrassment regarding their periods, and some mothers are going without sanitary products so they can buy them for their daughters instead.

Cllr Jayne Norman, who called the debate, told the committee that free sanitary products should be "an automatic right to all."

She said: "Menstruation affects every woman. We have no choice in the matter. And period poverty does exist – even in the 'affluent' Vale.

"To many, this topic is never discussed due to cultural or religious reasons.

"To many young women and girls, admitting that they are even having their period is embarrassing enough, without having to confess that their family cannot afford to buy them the sanitary protection they need.

"Many secondary schools already have some facilities in place to help alleviate this problem, but this is money spent out of their already very tight budgets.

"Junior schools, on the other hand, have to rely heavily on the generosity of staff members, or even in some cases, parents of some of the children.

"The facilities available to the pupils for the discreet disposal of any sanitary products is virtually non-existent."

The Vale Council found seven of its eight comprehensive schools provide the sanitary products free of charge, while one school charges 20p for each use.

A total of 12 of the 16 Vale primary schools which responded to the council offer the products free of charge, while at other schools either parents or teachers provide them.

The committee was first asked to debate the issue in November last year.

Cllr Margaret Wilkinson told the meeting: "I'm disappointed this has taken a long time to come to this committee.

"This is a poverty issue. This is a hidden, quiet problem. Girls don't want to talk about it.

"If we're getting money from the Welsh Assembly that's good but we don't want to wait for it. We need this now."

The Vale Council will receive £31,500 from the Welsh Government this financial year for sanitary equipment to be installed in schools, and £8,666 to buy the sanitary products themselves.

A working group will now be set up to look at how the free sanitary products plan can be implemented. But it would need cabinet approval to purchase any products or equipment, the meeting was told.

Ceri Reeves, secretary of campaigning group Wings Cymru, told the meeting: "This is about girls not missing school for one week per month, girls not curtailing their activities for one week per month.

"We would like to help all people who have periods if they have issues but girls in schools seem like an easy one to tick."

LDR

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Plate final heartbreak for Penybont College

The Penybont College team and management.

PENYBONT College went down 29-10 to Dyffryn Aman in the final of the Welsh Schools Rugby Plate competition last week, despite being well in contention at half-time.

The morning began with a formal kit presentation by ex-Pencoed Comprehensive pupil and former Wales and British Lions scrum half, Gareth Cooper.

In the presence of the sixth form and sponsors Heather Parsons of Vantage Quality Ltd and Owain Chick of OJC Painting and Decorating, the squad was introduced by coach, Ian Poley.

Using the WRU team bus courtesy of Edwards Coaches, the team arrived in the depths of the Principality Stadium to be met by WRU staff and were directed to their changing room.

While the team moved next door to Cardiff Arms Park in order to warm up, around 140 pupils and staff arrived via Gwyn Jones Buses to support the boys.

The opening exchanges were hotly-contested with both sides keen to look for weaknesses in their opponents but both made unforced errors.

Dyffryn Aman were content to look for field position while Penybont College looked to play expansively and made three clean line breaks through the work of centre pairing Josh Sands and Tom Bending.

It was Dyffryn Aman however, who opened the scoring through their pack to take a 7-0 lead.

Penybont began to exert pressure in the right areas of the field and after two missed attempts, full back Tom George opened Penybont's account, making it 7-3.

A number of injuries disrupted Penybont with prop Liam Williams, No8 and captain Joe Owen and scrum half Rhys Howells all leaving the field due to injury before half-time.

Dyffryn Aman made it 12-3 when their pack drove over for a second time before Penybont finally dotted down through a well-worked lineout move finished off by flanker Jordan Richards.

Trailing by two points, Penybont had a further try disallowed before Dyffryn Aman scored three tries of their own to take the game away from the Pencoed based side.

The players can be incredibly proud of what they achieved to get to the final and the opportunity to play on the Principality Stadium was thoroughly deserved.

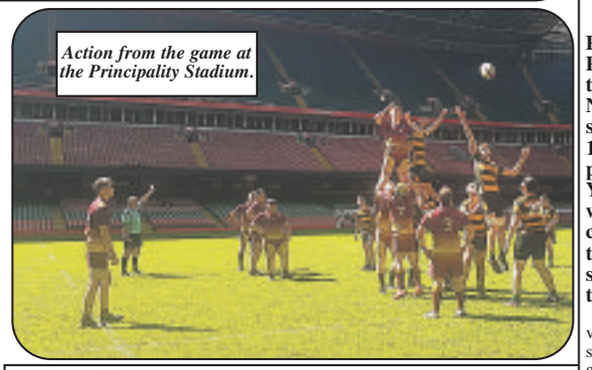
The coaching staff would like to thank everyone involved in supporting the squad throughout the season. Special mentions need to be given to the year-13 boys who wore the jersey for the last time (the majority who have played seven years worth of rugby for the school/college - Joe Owen, Liam Sheard, Lewis Stansbury, Dan Morris, Ashley Bissett, Rhys Jones, Ethan Davies and Alex Newbold).

Special mention must also go to Meg Rule who has been on media duty for the team during the cup run, Martin Burnell for acting as team physio and to the three KS3 pupils invited to be ball boys for the game - Finn Northrop, Jerry Chan and Dylan Rees.

Team: 15. Tom George, 14. Callum Lewis, 13. Josh Sands, 12. Tom Bending, 11. Liam Sheard, 10. Mike Bosley, 9. Rhys Howells, 8. Joe Owen (c), 7. Jordan Richards, 6. Dan Morris, 5. Ioan Pascoe, 4. Lewis Stansbury, 3. Phil Burnell, 2. Owain Johns, 1. Liam Williams.

Replacements: 16. Jack Bevan, 17. Ethan Davies, 18. Tyron Harding, 19. Corey Palmer, 20. Curtis Palmer, 21. Marcus Chard, 22. Ben Ward. Injured/non-playing: Ashley Bissett, Rhys Jones, Ethan Davies, Alex Newbold, Max Phillips.

IP



Action from the game at the Principality Stadium.

Tondu named as community club of the year by Ospreys

Left to right: Hywel Davies (club captain), Graham Thomas (chairman) and Matthew Tatchell (head coach).

TONDU RFC have been named as the Ospreys team of the year above Swansea valley sides Vardre and Morriston who were also in the top three.

Tondu's first season back in Division One Central West has been a successful adventure with a fourth place finish looking on the cards.

Their second team are in the final of the Enoch Lewis Cup next Saturday against Heol y Cyw Seconds at Llanharan and the youth side won the WRU Plate final against Pembroke at the Principality Stadium last weekend.

The junior set-up at Pandy Park is also on an all-time high with next season the first time the club will have a team competing at every level.

Chairman Graham Thomas added: "We are absolutely thrilled to have won Osprey community club of the year! It's great recognition to the army of volunteers throughout our club who give up their time to make our club the success it is."

Tondu RFC were described as "phenomenal' in one nomination due to their efforts around junior rugby.

The set-up of the Mini Wheelers has been incredibly successful with more children than ever playing at the club.

There have been notable successes in both cups and leagues across the ages as well as a working pathway that sees players progressing through the ranks to go onto playing in higher levels of rugby.

But it's the off field efforts that really caught the attention of the judges, from the club almost closing, they have put significant time and money into turning things around to become a sustainable family club at the heart of the community.

MIKE SULLY

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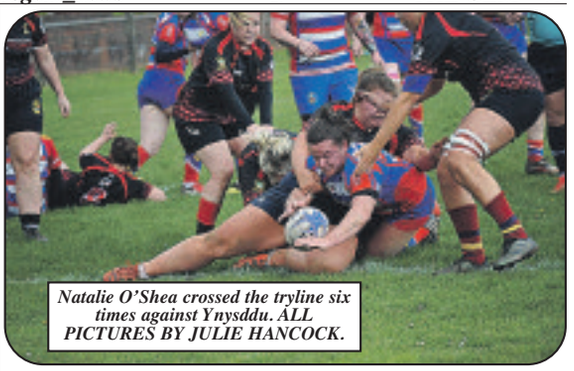

Natalie O'Shea crossed the tryline six times against Ynysddu. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

Six of the best for O'Shea as Phoenix fly into semi-finals

PENCOED Phoenix progressed through to the National Plate semi-final, scoring 10 tries in the process against Ynysddu ladies who were competitive throughout and scored four tries of their own.

The Blaenau Gwent visitors opened the scoring with a penalty goal from Amy Hurley. Phoenix soon responded, centre Lauren Aitken breaking deep into the visitors' 22 and the supporting Natalie O'Shea raced over.

A break from second row forward Rachel Jones set up the second home try, O'Shea again on hand to apply the finish.

Prop forward Jodie Jordan then laid the platform for the next Phoenix try, her driving run putting the visitors on the back foot and Aitken capitalised to take play into the Ynysddu 22 where the ever-present O'Shea crossed for her hat-trick within 25 minutes.

The dominant home front row of Elleri Harries Thomas, hooker Rose Lubin, and Jordan were constantly putting Phoenix on the front foot and outside half Leanne Burnell worked the scissors with centre Aitken, who split the visitors' defence and good hands saw O'Shea put captain Amy Stevens over wide out.

Leanne Burnell was on kicking duties - for more pictures visit glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

Another driving run from Jordan set up ruck possession before Hannah Seward broke the initial cover and Charlotte Mundy released Burnell with a overhead pass and the pace of Burnell took her outside of the visitors' cover for a fine try.

A scrum against the head saw Phoenix move the ball wide and the supporting Jones used every inch of her six foot-plus frame to reach the try line.

To their credit Ynysddu, at 32-3 down, fought back to enjoy their best period of the match, winning and retaining lots of possession, resulting in tries either side of the interval from Carly Tutton and Emily Parker.

Then a brilliant 35-metre solo effort from Burnell saw Phoenix lead 37-13.

Ynysddu then got their third try from Jodie Williams who powered over from close range. Seward then slotted a home penalty and soon after put O'Shea over for her fourth try, Burnell adding the extras.

Burnell was again soon in the picture, selling a dummy and breaking before feeding O'Shea who stormed away from 50 metres to score, Burnell converting.

Ynysddu once again hit back with their fourth try from Katie Davies, but it was the irrepressible O'Shea who had the final say with her sixth try of the match!

No8 Shannon Farr and wing Francesca Hyde were chosen as the Ynysddu ladies best forward and back, with the Phoenix honours going to centre Lauren Aitken and second row Rachel Jones.

TR

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On Wednesday, April 25: First, Norma and David Newman; second, Tony Disley and John Evans; third, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham. The winners on handicap were Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham.

On Thursday, April 26: First, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett; second, Stuart Davies and Paul Lyne; equal third, Chris Rawlings and John Henson, and Dilys Bowser and V. Irene Thomas. The winners on handicap were Dilys Bowser and V. Irene Thomas.

On Friday, April 27: First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; second, John Evans and Steve Burgoyne; third, Linda Jenkins and Bill Turner. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Lessons for beginners are being run by Steve Burgoyne - please contact Steve for further details on his number below.

On Thursdays there is a session starting at 1pm on slightly advanced topics - this week John Evans will present a seminar on bidding the fourth suit as forcing.

For further information about the lessons and any other of the club activities please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

GJ

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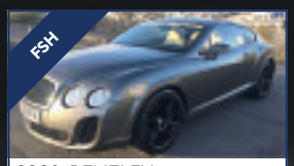

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Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

THERE were only three midweek games - but they were big ones.

Llantwit Major saw off Premier Division opposition to book their place in the final of the Barry Cup.

Goals from Lewis Brown, Josh Morgan, Colm Garrett and Jordan Davies gave them the win over Barry Athletic, 4-2.

Llantwit reserves are currently undefeated all season after having won every game in their first season back in the Vale league.

In the final they will play St Athan, who edged out FC Barry Belgrade, Reece Lewis and Karl Steel notching early to book St Athan's place in the Jenner Park showpiece on Sunday, May 6.

In the one league game played, Island Marine recorded an excellent 4-1 over Rhoose.

Onto the weekend's action, and Dave Stephenson scored a dramatic last-gasp winner as FC Barry Belgrade won the first silverware of the season, as they lifted the historic ASRS Cup after a 2-1 win over Barry Athletic at Jenner Park on Sunday.

Stephenson had given Belgrade the lead early in the game before Ben Pearce equalised for Athletic four minutes from time.

But with 95 minutes on the clock Belgrade won it.

Twenty four hours earlier, Premier Division league leaders St Athan ran out 3-0 winners over bottom side Penarth Town.

The win moves St Athan six points ahead of FC Barry Belgrade, although Belgrade have a mammoth five games in hand.

Island Marine continued their fine form with a 4-0 away win against Cowbridge Town - that's five games without a win for Town.

In Division One, leaders Sully Sports thumped Cwm Talwg 5-1. Sully can now win the Division One title this weekend if they collect all three points or if nearest rivals Barry Saints fail to win.

The Saints kept the pressure on Sully with a 5-3 victory over SP Billy to stay five points off top.

Cogan got back to winning ways with an impressive 4-1 away win against Cardiff Airport while Tynewydd continued their recent form with a narrow 1-0 win over Penarth Town B.

Penarth now face Cwm Talwg this week in a must-win game. Cadoxton Athletic's poor form went on as they lost a 10-goal thriller to Cadoxton Imps 6-4, a huge win for Imps in their quest for survival, but that's seven league losses on the bounce from Athletic.

In Division Two, just the one league game was played as the Dockers Cup semi-finals took centre stage.

In the league Island Marine B went fourth after a 1-0 win over bottom side Glenbrook.

In the Dockers Cup Llantwit Major secured their second cup final of the season with a 4-2 win over BRT Dynamos.

They will play Rhoose B after they emphatically booked their final berth with a 6-1 win over BVFC.

This weekend sees a league program and of course the Barry Cup final, St Athan and Llantwit Major will compete in the Vale league showpiece.

HD

Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies section results

On April 3, an 18 hole Stableford was held:

1st Samantha Saunders 40 points, 2nd Sue Bridle 34, 3rd Chris Nelms 29.

On April 17, the Australian Spoons 18 hole Stableford: 1st Sue Bridle & Annie Blackburn, 2nd Lisa Ryley & Sian Smith, 3rd Maxine Hird & Audrey Harwood.

Also on April 17, there was a nine hole Stableford: 1st Angela Brown, 2nd Dorothy Amery, 3rd Sue Thomas.

OnApril 24, the Challenge Bowls 18 hole Medal: Silver Division - 1st Sue Bridle 88 – 18 = 70, 2nd Lisa Ryley 89 – 15 =74, 3rd Ann Mahenthiralingam 90 – 12 = 78.

Bronze division - 1st Samantha Saunders 94 – 28 = 66, 2nd Ruth Yates 100 – 24 = 76, 3rd Audrey Harwood 101 – 24 = 77.

Congratulations to Samantha in having her handicap reduced and well done to all the ladies who have played during the inclement weather.

RY

Glamorgan Farmers battle it out at Rogerstone Golf Club

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held at a sunny Newport (Rogerstone) Golf Club where 30 members assembled to compete for a range of high quality prizes supplied by the day's sponsors Kelly, Harris and Conlon, group secretaries of the National Farmers' Union.

Society captain Keith James with winning golfers Godfrey Lewis, Ray Thomas, Trevor Wooding, Geoff Moore and sponsor Julian Kelly.

Established in 1903 and set in Llynwi Woods surrounded by rolling parkland, this famous course has a proud history.

It has staged many famous tournaments, with their next major event scheduled for 2020, when it hosts the Welsh Amateur Championships.

Despite the harsh winter that golf clubs have had to contend with, the condition of the course was exceptionally good providing the opportunity for the members to enjoy their day's golf.

At the conclusion of play just one point separated the top five with a count back over the back nine holes needed to determine Hugh Williams as the overall winner with 31 stableford points.

Hugh's back nine of 17 points proved crucial as runner-up Godfrey Lewis, also with 31 points, could only accumulate 15 on the back nine.

In third place, also with 31 points including 12 on the back nine, was Trevor Wooding. Ray Thomas with 30 points finished in fourth place just ahead of Bryan Owen, also with 30 points.

In the guest section, Geoff Moore took first place with the day's best score of 32 points.

In addition to the individual prizes, the NFU team event where one score over the first six holes, two scores on the next six and finally all three scores counting over the closing six holes proved an interesting challenge.

The winners of the team event, with 65 points, were Gareth Perkins, Geoff Moore and his guest David Jones.

In second place with 61 points were Hugh Williams, Dai John and Glyn Watts-Jones and in third place with 58 points were Geraint Davies, Keith James and Clive Edwards.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes were David Jones, Gareth Perkins, Glyn Watts-Jones, Godfrey Lewis and Chris Watson.

Hugh Williams capped a fine day by also winning the longest drive prize and David Jones returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 20 balls would fail to return home raising £100 in support of Velindre Hospital.

The society's next meeting will be the annual medal round competition for the Shrieval Trophy, kindly sponsored by Mr Mark Rees scheduled for Thursday, May 31 at Cottrell Park Golf Club on the highly-acclaimed Mackintosh course.

T.McC

Barrivale Bridge Club results

RESULTS for Barrivale Bridge Club on April 24:

The top three places were: 1. Debbie Richards & Sean MacDougall 61.11%, and joint second place Jane Brook & Noelle Bond 60.32%, Mike Close & Mick Green 60.32%.

The handicap winners were Reg Dyer and Dave Thomas.

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us please ring any of the following numbers - 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 - or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address where lessons and play take place in a relaxed atmosphere.

While our current class for beginners continue to run on Friday mornings, new members wishing to start the class will be able to join the next beginners class commencing in September.

LH

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Friendly loss for Centurions

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club completed their pre-season friendly fixtures with a defeat at Radyr on Sunday.

After Saturday's match with Rogerstone fell victim to the weather, a mixture of first and second XI players came up against a strong Radyr side, who proved too strong for the visitors.

The home side batted first on a wicket that had survived the wet weather, but was still quite damp.

There was an early breakthrough, when Gareth Thomas bowled opener O'Neil with the score on 26.

After this, however, Radyr steadily took control, thanks mainly to a fine innings from Wilson, who began finding the boundary with regularity.

The second wicket partnership with Das took the score along to 86 in the 19th over before Ricki Griffett struck via a Patrick Lane catch to remove Das for 35.

But Wilson was beginning to get into his stride and the Centurion attack was unable to find a way to make a breakthrough.

Chris Coles eventually had Lloyd caught by Griffett for 35, but this was no more than a late consolation as Radyr eventually finished on 235 for 3.

Wilson, by this time, had reached an unbeaten 128 – a great innings which included 15 fours and 3 sixes.

After tea, the Sully innings was opened by Gethin Hicks and Rhett Jones, who faced an accurate opening attack.

Runs were slow in coming, but both showed some nice touches before Rhett was caught off the bowling of Stanson for 11, with the score on 19.

Calum Thomas, making his first appearance since his return to Centurions, began to find the gaps in the field and looked comfortable at the crease.

Unfortunately wickets began to fall, beginning with Hicks, who was caught behind for 14. Thomas and Lloyd Bruce (21) shared an entertaining fifth wicket stand of 35 before Bruce fell to O'Neil in the 26th over.

Mander, with his unorthodox action, was causing all sorts of problems for Sully and he ended up with 4 for 30 as the Centurions innings ended on 129 all out. Calum Thomas was Centurions' top scorer with 43.

Radyr 235 for 3, Sully Centurions 129 all out.

This coming Saturday sees the start of the 2018 league season as Centurions' first XI entertain Dinas Powys at Burnham Avenue, while the second XI travel to Monmouth.

All players are asked to check with the captains regarding availability.

Sully Centurions CC are grateful to Waitrose Barry for the donation of £180 from their 'green token' initiative.

MF

Georgia and Maisie.

International basketball call-up for St Richard Gwyn pupils

MAISIE Harrhy and Georgia Hellerman, both pupils at St Richard Gwyn, Barry, have been selected to represent Welsh Basketball under-16 girls at the FIBA European Championships in Moldova at the beginning of July.

This is a great achievement considering they are still both just 14. The girls will be training with the national squad in the coming months in preparation for the European Championships at which they will play Scotland, Moldova and Gibraltar.

Talking about their achievements, Mrs Harrhy said: "Both sets of parents are bursting with pride, the girls work so hard and we have so much respect for their dedication and positive attitude and their love for the game."

Currently the St Richard Gwyn students both train with and play National League for Cardiff Met Archers under-16 girls and Maisie plays for Vale Vipers Basketball Club.

They are fortunate to have basketball coach Andy Leftley as a teacher at their school, and a great coaching team at Cardiff Met.

This adds to the girls' success, as Maisie represented Wales under-16 girls at the European Championships last year in Gibraltar, where the team narrowly missed out on a bronze medal, and Georgia has a successful record in netball having been selected in the Wales under-17 netball talent squad.

Basketball is self-funded so if any local businesses would like to sponsor the girls to help with travel costs then please do get in touch - email t.harrhy@ntlworld.com for more information.

MH

Young Brace scores again!

THERE'S no way of keeping young Connor Brace out of the racing news.

After riding three point-to-point winners over the weekend, which has put him well ahead in the national novice point-to-point riders' championship, on Tuesday, at Exeter, riding five-year-old BillyGwyn Too, he landed the Goffs Spring Sales P2P Bumper Flat Race getting home by three parts of a length from the favourite Kootenay River.

BillyGwyn Too is trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr and was an 8-1 chance in a field of eight runners.

Connor, who won't be 17 until July, was a leading child pony racing rider and the experience he gained in those events have paid off handsomely.

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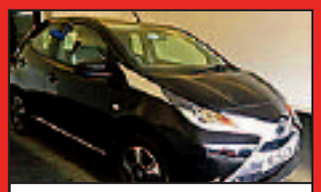

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17 66 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 TD4 SE AWD 5dr automatic, Land Rover warranty March 2020, 18"alloys, lane assist, 17k, Kaikoura Stone, full leather **£28995**

16 16 BMW X3 30D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 14k, grey **£26995**

14 64 AUDI Q3 2.0 TFSI Quattro S-Line 5dr, sat nav, 38k, silver, full leather **£18995**

14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather **£20995**

15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr 4WD automatic (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black **£16995**

16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 4WD 5dr(7-seater) Nissan warranty April 2019, pan roof, cruise, 12k, black **£15995**

15 15 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, 20"alloys, sat nav, 30k, silver, full leather **£24995**

16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav 5dr 4WD Gearbox, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, 15k, full leather **£21995**

13 63 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Dynamic Lux AWD 5dr automatic, 20"alloys, panoramic roof, sat nav, black/silver contrast roof, full leather **£22995**

16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Quattro Sport 4dr, Audi warranty April 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, 13k, white **£16795**
15 15 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, 20"alloys, sat nav, 30k, silver, full leather **£24995**
14 64 AUDI Q3 2.0 TFSI Quattro S-Line 5dr, sat nav, 38k, silver, full leather **£18995**
15 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line+ 5dr, 19"alloys, cruise, 19k, silver **£20995**
15 15 AUDI Q5 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic automatic, panoramic roof, sat nav, 30k, white, full leather **£24995**
13 13 AUDI TT 2.0 TDI S-Line Quattro 3dr S-Tronic, cruise, Bluetooth, bose, 32k, met blue, half leather **£13995**
13 63 BMW 330 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic, sat nav, cruise, black, full merino leather **£15795**
15 65 BMW 330 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic (313bhp), sat nav, m sport + pack, 19"alloys, 18k, met grey, full leather **£21995**
16 16 BMW 330D XDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, 19k, black, full leather **£22495**
16 65 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport 5dr automatic, 19"Alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather **£22995**
16 16 BMW 335d XDRIVE M Sport Estate automatic (313bhp), BMW warranty May 2019, sat nav, DAB, 23k, white, full leather **£22495**
16 16 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic (313bhp), sat nav, 13k, choice, full leather **£21495**
16 16 BMW 335d M Sport XDRIVE Estate automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, 26k, black, full leather **£22995**
15 64 BMW 420 D M Sport XDRIVE Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, 26k, met black **£20995**
15 65 BMW 420 D M Sport XDrive 2dr (190bhp), M sport plus pack, widescreen sat nav, 19"alloys, 17k, estoril blue **£21495**
16 16 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather **£23995**
16 65 BMW 420D XDRIVE D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic (190bhp), BMW warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, privacy glass, full leather, 23k, grey **£20495**
16 16 BMW 430 D XDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, sunroof, M sport plus pack, 19"alloys, pre media, met blue, full leather **£24995**
16 16 BMW 435 DXDRIVE 3.0 M Sport 2dr Coupe automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 18k, met grey with full leather **£26995**
16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20"alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather **£42995**
16 66 BMW X1 20D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, grey **£21995**
16 16 BMW X3 30D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty April 2019, 19"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 14k, grey **£26995**
16 16 BMW X3 XDRIVE 35DM Sport 5dr automatic (313bhp), 20"alloys, sat nav, 15k, white with full leather **£28995**
14 64 BMW X4 XDRIVE 3.0 DM Sport 5dr automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 20k, white with full leather **£27995**
16 16 BMW X4 30d M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, pro nav, 19"alloys, silver, full leather **£26995**
15 65 BMW X5 XDRIVE 40EM Sport 5dr, 20"alloys, head up display, reverse camera, sat nav, 30k, met grey, full leather **£36995**
15 15 BMW X5 XDRIVE 30 DSE 5dr automatic, 22"alloys, sat nav, 32k, met brown, full leather **£28995**
17 17 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium AWD 5dr (180bhp) Ford warranty Mar 2020, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, 11k, black **£18995**
14 64 HONDA CR-V 2.2 I-DTEC SR 5dr 4WD 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, 47k, blue, full leather **£12995**
14 64 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr 4WD, sat nav, rear camera, heated seats, in mocha with full leather **£11995**
14 64 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD Limited 5dr automatic, reverse camera, 29k, black, full leather **£20995**
16 65 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet II LTD 4WD 5dr, Jeep warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 16k, red, full leather **£14995**
11 61 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, black, half-leather **£9995**
13 13 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, sat nav, electric panoramic roof, 18"alloys, grey, full leather **£11495**
14 64 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-1 5dr AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2019, Bluetooth, USB, cruise, 27k, white **£11495**
15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-2 AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, pdc, 19k, white, half leather **£13995**
16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr automatic (4WD), pan roof, sat nav, 19"Alloys, heated seats, 3k, white with full leather **£21995**
16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI GT-Line AWD 5dr automatic, Kia warranty May 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, black, full leather **£19495**
16 16 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 6k, in two tone white and black with half-leather **£28995**
13 63 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Vogue SE 5dr automatic, 22"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, privacy glass, corris grey, full leather **£42995**
13 63 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Dynamic Lux AWD 5dr automatic, 20"alloys, panoramic roof, sat nav, black/silver contrast roof, full leather **£22995**
17 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 TD4 SE AWD 5dr automatic, Land Rover warranty March 2020, 18"alloys, lane assist, 17k, Kaikoura Stone, full leather **£28995**
14 64 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 TD Sport 4wd 5dr (175bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bose, full leather, white **£11995**
14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line 5dr 7G-DCT 4-Matic, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 27k, white, half-leather **£17995**
14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather **£20995**
15 65 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 4MATIC, pan roof, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 14k, south seas blue, half leather **£22495**
15 65 MERCEDES GLE250 CDI AMG Line 4MATIC 5dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, 20"alloys, 17k, white, full leather **£31995**
15 15 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 COOPER S ALL4 5dr (Sport & TLC pack) (190bhp) Bluetooth, USB, 22k, blue, full leather **£15495**
14 14 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 Cooper S ALL4 3dr (190bhp)(Chili & TLC Pack) 18"alloys, heated seats, Bluetooth, black, full leather **£10795**
15 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.2 DI-D GX3 5dr 4WD automatic (7-Seater), cruise, pdc, Bluetooth, 9k, black **£16995**
15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, 35k, met green with full leather **£16795**
16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 4WD 5dr(7-seater) Nissan warranty April 2019, pan roof, cruise, 12k, black **£15995**
15 64 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech R 4MOTION 5dr (300bhp) 18"alloys, xenons, cruise, white **£17495**
17 66 VOLVO V60 2.4 D5 (163) Twin Engine SE Nav Estate AWD Geartronic (Hybrid), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 11k, blue with full leather **£22995**
14 63 VOLVO XC60 TD R-Design Lux 5dr 4WD, cruise, 18"alloys, grey, full leather **£14995**
16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.0 TD D4 SE Lux 5dr 4WD Geartronic, Volvo warranty March 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, 17k, magic blue, full leather **£21995**
16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav 5dr 4WD Gearbox, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, 15k, full leather **£21995**
16 65 VOLVO XC90 T8 Hybrid Momentum AWD 5dr automatic (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, cruise, met blue with full leather **£41995**

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16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Sport 4dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, white £13995
15 65 BMW M135 3.0 I 3dr automatic, BMW warranty May 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, 18k, choice, full leather £19495
14 64 BMW 218 D Sport 2dr coupe automatic, xenons, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, 31k, silver, full red leather £14995
15 65 BMW 220 D M Sport Active Tourer 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2018, sat nav, heated sseats, 34k, black, full leather £16995
16 65 BMW 320d BluePerformance ED plus 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 24k, grey, full beige leather £16495
16 66 BMW 330e Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, mineral white £21495
15 65 BMW 330 D M Sport 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, pro nav, Bluetooth, 29k, grey, full red leather £18495
15 15 BMW 320 D ED Business Edition Estate, sat nav, met grey, full leather £11995
13 13 BMW 320 D Modern Gran Turismo 5dr automatic, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 37k, grey, full oyster leather £14995
14 64 BMW 420 D M Sport 2dr convertible automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, xenons, full leather, 18k, choice £19995
15 15 BMW 420 D M Sport 2dr automatic (190bhp) M Sport+ pack, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, wide screen nav, choice, full leather £15995
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16 16 BMW 420 D M Sport 2dr, widescreen sat nav, 19"alloys, in white with full black leather £19995
15 65 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 25k, full leather, choice £16995
11 61 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate automatic, privacy glass, heated seats, white, full leather £9995
15 64 BMW 520 DSE 4dr automatic (190bhp) sat nav, Bluetooth, grey, full leather £12995
15 65 BMW 520 DSE 4dr (190) automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, bluetooth, full leather, choice £15995
16 16 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr (190bhp) automatic, sat nav, choice, full leather £18495
15 65 BMW 640 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2018, sat nav, 19"alloys, 27k, silver, full leather £23995
15 65 BMW 640 D M Sport 2dr coupe automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2018, 20"alloys, sat nav, Bluetooth, 15k, black, full leather £26995
15 65 BMW I3 E 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Jan 2019, DC rapid charge prep, sat nav, 19"alloys, heated seats, 13k, white £15995
15 64 CITROEN C1 1.2 PureTech Flair Airscape 3dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 17k, black £6495
15 15 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI Feel 3dr, Bluetooth, aircon, USB, 11k, white £5495
16 16 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI Feel Airscape 5dr, electric roof, Bluetooth, 7k, white £7495
17 17 CITROEN GRAND C4 PICASSO 1.6 BLUEHDI Feel 5dr (7-seater) sat nav, cruise, 8k, met blue £14795
16 16 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI Crossback 5dr, Citroen warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, 19k, met red, half leather £11495
16 16 FORD FOCUS 1.0 T EcoBoost Zetec S 5dr, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 15k, red £11795
16 16 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Zetec S 5dr, Bluetooth, 17"alloys, met blue £11495
15 65 HYUNDAI TUSCON 1.7 CRDI Blue Drive SE Nav 5dr, sat nav, Hyundai warranty October 2020, Bluetooth, heated seats, 22k, choice £12995
14 64 JAGUAR XF 2.2 D Premium Luxury 4dr automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 32k, white, full leather £16995
15 15 KIA CEED 1.4 SR7 5dr, Kia warranty until Aug 2022, Bluetooth, PDC, 25k, white £8295
17 17 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 Estate ISG, Kia warranty April 2024, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, under 1k, black £14995
17 67 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI GT-Line S Estate 5dr DCT automatic, Kia warranty Sep 2024, panoramic roof, sat nav, privacy glass, 7k, black, full leather £19995
15 65 KIA PICANTO 1.2 CHILLI Eco Dynamics 3dr, Kia warranty Jan 2023, PDC, privacy glass, Bluetooth, USB, 15k, white, half leather £7995
16 16 KIA RIO 1.4 3 5dr, Kia warranty May 2023, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 16k, black £9995
15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 1 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty March 2022, cruise, bluetooth, USB, 22k, white £11995
18 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 2 5dr, KIA warranty Feb 2025, 17"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, grey £18995
15 65 KIA VENGA 1.6 CRDI 4 ISG 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 22k, white, half-leather £9995
15 15 MAZDA 6 2.2 TD SE-L 4dr automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, PDC, 18k, blue £12995
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16 16 MERCEDES A200d AMG Line 5dr, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 23k, silver, half leather £16495
16 16 MERCEDES B180 CDI SE 5sdr 7G-DCT, Mercedes warranty Aug 2019, reverse camera, alloys, 7k, met blue, full leather £14495
15 64 MERCEDES C220 CDI BlueTEC Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic Plus, sat nav, reverse camera, silver, full leather £14495
16 16 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line Premium 2dr 9G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty April 2019, panoramic roof, sat nav, 18"alloys, 19k, white, full leather £26995
15 15 MERCEDES C250 CDI AMG Sport 2dr coupe 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 15k, silver, half leather £15995
15 15 MERCEDES CLA220 CDI Sport 4dr 7G-DCT, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, cruise, 33k, grey, half leather £17495
15 65 MERCEDES CLA220 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-DCT, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 18"alloys, 19k, red £20495
15 65 MERCEDES CLS220d AMG Line 4dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 19k, black, full leather £22495
15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTec AMG Night Edition 4dr 7-G Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, privacy glass, choice, full leather £17995
15 65 MERCEDES E220 CDI BlueTEC AMG Night Editon 7G-Tronic plus Estate, Mercedes warranty Sep 2018, sat nav, DAB Bluetooth, choice, full leather £18995
13 13 MERCEDES E250 CDI Blueefficiency Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic Automatic, heated seats, privacy glass, silver, full leather £12495
14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Sport 4dr 7G-Tronic plus, panoramic roof, sat nav, 13k, silver, half leather/alcantara £18995
13 13 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI Bluefficiency 2dr 7G-Tronic Plus, Bluetooth, 26k, black £12995
16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D COOPER 6dr, sat nav, chilli pack, 10k, white £13995
15 65 MINI COOPER S 2.0 3dr (Chili & TLC pack) Mini warranty Jan 2019, Bluetooth, privacy glass, USB, 18k, deep blue, half leather £12995
15 65 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr(Chili & Media XL Pack) Mini warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, LED lights, choice £10495
14 64 MINI COUPE 1.6 Cooper 2dr, chilli + TLC pack, 17"alloys, heated seats, 25k, white, half-leather £8495
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15 64 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 32k, yellow, full leather £9495
16 16 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Tekna Xtronic 5dr CVT, Nissan warranty March 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 17k, grey, full leather £11995
16 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Visia 5dr, Nissan warranty Feb 2019, cruise, Bluetooth, USB, 19k, red £11295
15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Acenta Premium 5dr (130BHP), Nissan warranty May 2018, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 33k, met red £12495
16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, 9k, met grey, full leather £18995
15 15 PEUGEOT 208 1.6 THP GTI 3dr (200bhp) Peugeot warranty Aug 2018, sat nav, pan roof, 12k, white, half leather £10995
15 15 PEUGEOT 2008 1.6 e-HDI CROSSWAY 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 17k, black £9995
14 64 PEUGEOT RCZ 2.0 HDI Sport 2dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 30k, black £10495
13 63 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr, tech pack, sat nav, pan roof, white with full leather £19995
15 15 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Dynamique 5dr, Renault warranty Aug 2018, sat nav, 26k, white with black roof & mirror caps £8995
15 65 RENAULT KADJAR 1.6 DCI Signature 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, met red £12495
17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology Estate, Seat warranty Sep 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, PDC, 7k, grey £13995
16 16 SKODA YETI OUTDOOR 2.0 TDI SCR SE L 5dr, Skoda warranty May 2019, 17"alloys, cruise, 9k, silver, full leather £13495
15 64 TOYOTA AURIS 1.8 VVT-I Excel e-CVT HSD 5dr automatic, Toyota warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 11k, white £14995
17 17 TOYOTA C-HR 1.8 Icon 5dr CVT automatic, Toyota warranty Aug 2022, reverse camera, heated seats, 12k, grey, full leather £21495
16 16 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T 3dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2016, 18"alloys, cruise, DAB, 13k, white £8795
14 64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 I 16V Sting 3dr, 17"alloys, met green £4995
15 65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 CDTI Tech Line 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Dec 2018, sat nav, cruise, 23k, white £10995
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15 64 VW POLO 1.4 TSI BlueMotion Tech ACT BlueGT 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 17"alloys, 9k, white £12995

14 63 MERCEDES B200 CDI SE 5dr, sat nav, PDC, white **£9995**

15 15 MAZDA MX-5 2.0 Sport 2dr convertible (New Model), Mazda warranty Sep 2018, 17"alloys, heated seats, 16k, black, full beige leather **£14995**

15 64 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-TEC 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, black **£11995**

16 16 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 2WD 5dr, Landrover warranty Aug 2019, lane assist, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 19k, white, full leather **£24995**

16 16 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI Crossback 5dr, Citroen warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 18"alloys, 19k, met red, half leather **£10995**

17 17 JAGUAR XF 2.0 TD R-Sport 4dr automatic, Jaguar warranty July 2020, electric panoramic roof, sat nav, 19"black alloys, 11k, grey, full two tone leather **£24995**

15 15 CITROEN DS3 CABRIO 1.6 e-HDI Airdream DSTYLE Plus 2dr convertible, Citroen warranty Sep 2018, cruise, 17"alloys, 7k, blue **£7995**

16 16 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 20"alloys, 18k, white, full leather **£20995**

16 16 MERCEDES A200d AMG Line 5dr, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 10k, choice, half leather **£16495**

15 65 PEUGEOT 108 1.2 Pure Tech Allure 3dr, Bluetooth, reverse camera, alloys, 25k,black **£6295**

16 66 VOLVO V40 CROSS COUNTRY 2.0 TD D2 PRO 5dr Geartronic, Volvo warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, blue, full leather **£15995**

15 65 VW GOLF 1.4 TSI BlueMotion Tech GTE 5dr DSG, VW warranty Oct 2018, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 20k, silver **£18995**

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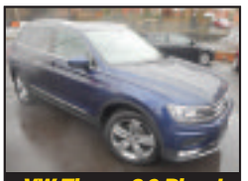

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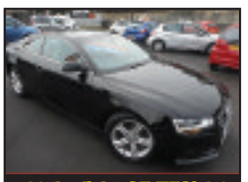

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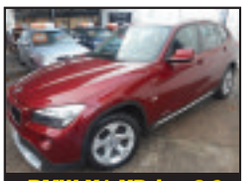

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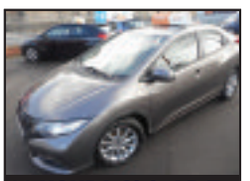

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High drama in tense encounter... but Porthcawl RFC win WRU Bowl with the last kick of the game!

IN one of the most remarkable finals in WRU history, Porthcawl snatched victory away from the Scarlets of Pembroke with the last kick of a truly pulsating and memorable match, full of passion, skill and exhilarating running rugby that served as a fabulous advertisement for the community game in Wales, a truly epic contest, in which Pembroke played a huge part.

Captain Richard Hnyda lifts the WRU Bowl! Photo by the Huw Evans Agency.

Supporters left Porthcawl in early morning droves and with a thousand or more supporters at the Principality Stadium to cheer them on, the Seaweeds continued a remarkable run of success in league and cup to make history and take them to the brink of a league and cup double.

Referee Dylan Jones got the match underway and right from the off Porthcawl got into their stride as they landed the first blow inside two minutes.

Pembroke No.8 Sam Smith lost control of the ball in his charge forward as Porthcawl flanker Morgan Evans came in with the hit and the ball moved swiftly to centre Jon Phillips, magnificent throughout, who found No.8 Leon McNally at his shoulder.

McNally's swift offload to fellow back-rower Ben Asprea saw the flanker charge over under the posts for a simply glorious opening try, goaled by fly-half Josh White and 7-0 before Pembroke knew what day it was.

Seaweeds scrum-half Morgan Haylock, whose service and sniping runs were a joy to watch for much of the match, made a snap break, finding Phillips with McNally and Asprea again to the fore, before the move broke down.

Centre Gareth Rees, a giant of a player all season, then showed two brilliant dummies in a break that took Porthcawl back deep into Pembroke territory and White's mammoth pass found right wing Jordan Fox, who sped in at the corner for a great try.

White's kick drifted just wide and it was 12-0 in just eight minutes.

Despite Porthcawl's opening blitz, Pembroke are not top of their Division 3 West for no reason and they came back with force to put pressure in good measure on the Porthcawl line with a series of drives, linked with smart back play, and when huge flanker Dom Coleman dived over at the corner for an unconverted try and 12-5, it seemed that it was game on again.

Back came Porthcawl moving the ball with speed down the left with Phillips' superbly-timed pass putting left wing Jake Thomas away for the corner, only for a late tip-tackle by Pembroke wing Barry Alderman-John on Phillips to result in a yellow card, with Thomas taking a bang to the shoulder as he was hauled down short.

Up stepped White to land the 37 metre penalty and 15-5.

Porthcawl were certainly having the best of it and when good work by Morgan Evans and Asprea set up a superb flowing move, with the ball moving at speed through several pairs of hands, going right, it was full-back Ben Thomas delivering the pass for Fox to nab his second try for 20-5, with White's goal attempt again just wide.

Fox grabbed his third try, which won him the man-of-the-match award, as again Porthcawl went for the jugular.

Full-back Ben Thomas cleverly switched direction to step blind and feed Phillips, whose outrageous dummy took him clear and he handed Fox the scoring pass for his hat-trick score, bettered only by White's superb conversion off touch, and at 27-5 Pembroke now had a huge mountain to climb – but climb it they did.

First of all, man-mountain No.8 Sam Smith barged his way over for the try from a short pass by scrum-half Tom Lewis 10 metres out, converted by Shaun Dalling, before Porthcawl's usually impregnable defence in their own 22 saw centre Dan Colley waltz through for an unconverted try.

At 27-17 Pembroke were back in striking distance as the whistle sounded the end of a breathtaking first half of some incredible rugby.

If anyone thought the second half was going to see any slowdown in the tempo they were sadly mistaken and Asprea was soon at it again for the Seaweeds.

He stole Pembroke ball at a ruck and charged out of defence on a lung-bursting 70 metre run, before finding McNally at his shoulder. The No.8 seemed certain to score but for the brilliant covering defence which hauled him down just five metres short.

Then it was wing Jake Thomas, again heading for the line only to be stopped from a similar distance out, before, seconds later, Haylock found White in the pocket from a ruck and the fly-half coolly dropped a fine goal for 30-17.

As both sides started to ring the changes and satisfy the need for fresh legs with the pace of the match showing no let-up, Owen Thomas came on for Asprea and Aled Davies for Jake Thomas and from another Seaweeds attack a smart White dink through saw Ben Thomas almost snatch the touchdown but for an outstanding piece of covering from the Scarlets flanker Billy Wood. Matt Cook came on for Jamie Uren at prop and Jake Furness for McNally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Maesteg Celtic one step closer title after victory

MAESTEG Celtic played relegation-battling Cwmgors on a dry and windy evening.

It was a fluid running game with Celtic aiming for the championship and Cwmgors needing points to avoid relegation.

Both sides handled the ball well and all 30 players were keen to get involved. The Celtic front five of front row Damian Phillips, Ashley Poole and Lloyd Griffiths, second rows Mark Hillier-Rees and Alex Jones covered a huge amount of ground in attack and defence while the back row of Callum Bowen, Jonathan Davies and Ryan Jones were always in the thick of the action.

The half backs Leon Evans and Luke Richards controlled play, while centres Lee Arthur and Matthew Harris attacked with vigour. The back three of Lloyd Jenkins, Sam Mines and James Dixon were involved in many of the attacking plays.

Celtic's first try came when full back James Dixon drew the defence and passed to second row Alex Jones who then put wing Sam Mines clear.

Sam was stopped short of the line but the ball was spun wide from the ruck and Dixon gave Alex Jones a clean run in to touch down. Matthew Harris converted.

Celtic's second try came as a result of a fine penalty kick to the corner by outside half Luke Richards.

The pack pounded the Cwmgors line before number eight Ryan Jones powered over to touch down.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Ben Davies makes a break. PICTURE BY JOHN CANNON.

Another Athletic win sets up mouth-watering final day of the season

THE Division 1 West Central encounter between Bonymaen and Bridgend Athletic RFC was preceded by a minute's silence in honour of Athletic co-founder, life member and club stalwart Clive Easterbrook, who sadly passed away on Friday, April 27 (*See club tribute on page 19*).

Bonymaen, smarting from a recent last minute 17-15 defeat to the Athletic, were again frustrated as the Athletic withheld a late surge from the home side to avoid history repeating itself and emerge 20-19 victors.

This sets up a grand finale for second-placed Athletic when they visit undefeated league leaders Maesteg Quins for the Athletic's last game of the season this Saturday, May 5.

The Athletic will be taking their own 14-match, six-month winning sequence to the game (their last defeat was by the Quins, 26-18, back on November 4) and a titanic battle before a large crowd is anticipated.

Bonymaen kicked off with the advantage of their sloping Parc Mawr pitch and a breeze behind them. Beefed up by a permit front row prop and hooker from Premiership side Llandovery, they drew first blood with a 45-metre penalty by outside half Richard Cunniffe following a collapsed scrum.

A high hanging restart drop out from Athletic outside half Luke Bevan was taken by Athletic No 8 Sean Williams. Scrum half Aled Thomas fed Bevan who broke the first line of defence before handing on to wing Dan Howells who made ground and passed inside to full back Stuart Floyd Ellis to cross in the corner.

Bonymaen were using their home knowledge to pin the Athletic back, using the down and cross slope of the pitch to tactically kick to their right-hand touchline.

They also sensed there might be a weakness with youth player Caine Woolerton up against their try machine wing Nathan Brooks on that side.

They were disappointed as Woolerton handled Brooks and the pressure admirably and also showed his own attacking prowess.

Centres Chris Price and Tom Jenkins were also well up for the game with sound defence and attack as Bonymaen threw everything at the Athletic to use their pitch and wind advantage.

They were unable to breach a defence bolstered by one of the best back rows (captain Ben Howe, Sean Williams and Ben Davies) in the league, having to settle for a further three penalties by Cuniffe to one from Bevan to lead 12-8 at the interval.

From the restart the Athletic took control of the game. A surging 40-metre run from a line out deep into the Bonymaen 22 fizzled out with a dropped pass. The Athletic then drove a line out 25 metres to be halted just short of the try line.

The breakthrough came 10 minutes into the half. Wing Dan Howells counter-attacked from a clearance kick 10 metres inside his own half.

Great interpassing involving Sean Williams, Ben Howe and Chris Price saw mobile lock Ben Cording appear and give an inside scoring pass to scrum half Aled Thomas.

Unusually the normally reliable goal kicker Luke Bevan, with 191 seasonal points, was having an off day with his goal kicking and missed the conversion, and then a penalty, which would have given his side a breathing space.

However, Bevan was dictating play with good distribution and tactical kicking and a penalty saw him put the Athletic 10 metres from the Bonymaen try line.

Hooker Nathan Holman found lock Ben Cording to set up a driving maul. Cording effectively cleaned out the Bonymaen hooker who was making a nuisance of himself to allow the maul to turn infield at pace and permit captain Ben Howe to touch down for his seventh try of the season.

Bevan's conversion gave the Athletic a two-score advantage with a 20-12 lead.

With the Athletic front row of Matt Muir, Nathan Holman and Wayne Fooks now in scrum ascendancy, and with good ball carrying from Muir and lock Jonathon Stoker, the play was now deep in the Bonymaen half.

When scrum half Aled Thomas broke clear from a ruck with Ben Howe looking for the scoring pass inside him he unfortunately failed to notice Howe, and an attempted chip to the corner for wing Howells rolled into touch.

Former Athletic flanker Dan Apsee, on permit, came off the bench for the final quarter.

Bonymaen then made a late surge. With 10 minutes remaining a try looked certain with their centre one-on-one with Athletic prop Matt Muir.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35